



Getting classes on par with student diversity

See centerspread

Pick of the week

See the Smithsonian's study of achievements by African-American women in the gallery through March 31.

Hoop star sets new scoring record

See page 19

Bentley Library
Northern Essex Community College
Haverhill, MA

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NECC Observer

Vol. 46, No. 3

Northern Essex Community College

Students claim harassment

Lesbians plagued by hate speech, accuse student, filing charges

By ROBERT COMEAU
Observer Editor

Weeks of harassment culminated in a recent confrontation for two lesbian students when they heard what they believe was another of the daily insults directed at them from a group of students hanging-out between classes in the C-Building lobby.

Peter Flynn, professor, department of behavioral sciences, was on the way to his Race and Ethnic Relations class when he saw the commotion. He said 10 to 20 students were crowded around one woman, chanting what seemed to be, "Dyke, dyke, dyke!"

This incident started when Ingrid Rivera, liberal arts student, was walking through the corridor to her 10 a.m. class on Feb. 17, with her girlfriend Steph Intrasilathavong, liberal arts/international relations student, and she heard something she said was directed at her and Intrasilathavong.

Breaking point: She said Luis Fernandez, hotel and restaurant management student, "made a comment like, 'Which one is the man and which one is the woman?'"

Fernandez, whom Rivera and Intrasilathavong said wasn't involved with the previous incidents, said Rivera misunderstood him. He was talking to a friend about her brother's marital problems, and he used the expression to explain his views on male/female relationships, he said.

"I was saying that the man shouldn't be taking care of the child and the house," he said.

When Rivera told Intrasilathavong what she had heard Fernandez say in Spanish, which Intrasilathavong doesn't speak fluently, Intrasilathavong went back to confront him.

Disparagement: Intrasilathavong's initial response was, "Which one of you said it? Whoever said it is an a-hole," she said.

"They started yelling 'dyke' the minute I went up there," Intrasilathavong said. "They wouldn't stop. It must have went on for five minutes. I said, 'I know you (Fernandez) said it, and I'm going to file a civil complaint against you.'"

Intrasilathavong looked for security, but there was no one in the office, only a few yards away from where the encounter occurred. She searched for her adviser, Paula Strangie, chairperson, department of behavioral sciences, but she wasn't in her office. She returned to the scene and once again faced

Fernandez.

"I told him, 'You know, I'm sick and tired of the comments you and your friends make about us every day,' she said. "We don't bother you. We mind our own business. We have just as much right to be here as you do. The worst type of person there can be is a minority homophobe."

Injustice: Rivera said minorities, in particular, should realize the wrong in singling out someone for being different.

"I cannot believe that a minority would say that," she said. "It's like being black; you can't change that. It's the same thing with us. We're being harassed for something you cannot change."

They said Fernandez didn't say anything during the confrontation, and believe his lack of defense was an admission of guilt.

Fernandez said he tried to walk away from the argument, but Intrasilathavong continued to confront him.

Different perspectives: Other witnesses said Fernandez avoided an argument, and that the crowd of students were reacting vocally to the confrontation and instigated it with jeers, laughter and provocations, but not with any slurs such as "dyke."

Dennis Rumardo, liberal arts student, witnessed the incident and said Fernandez did the right thing by not losing his temper.

"He played the man's role, because a real man wouldn't hit a lady," he said.

Miggy Ruiz, business management student, was there during the conflict, too. She said she and her friends that gather together in the lobby between classes have been misunderstood by Intrasilathavong.

Neutrality: "I don't want her to think we're against her," Ruiz said. "The point is, she misunderstood him. We don't want any violence between our culture and any other culture."

The woman's sexual orientation means nothing to him, Fernandez said.

"That's her life if she wants to be like," he said. "I don't get into other people's business."

(Continued on page 6)



Cutting costs

S. Lachance photo

ESCAPING THE HIGH prices of text books, Alex and Nathan Kim, engineering science students, exchange books in front of Bentley Library. A student-run book-swap was recently proposed by President John R. Dimitry.

President pushes book-swap concept

Efforts to slash existing price tags begins

By ERIC LUNDIN
Observer Managing Editor

Criminology, \$51.75; A Child's Odyssey: Child and Adolescent Development, \$49.60; Contemporary Advertising, \$58.20; Microbiology, \$60.

Textbook prices at the campus bookstore have long spawned complaints from the student body. In an effort to drive prices down, John R. Dimitry, NECC president, has proposed the idea of a book-swap, giving students the option of buying texts from each other.

"I spent three different occasions visiting the bookstore," Dimitry said. "I got

concerned as I walked around and could see what was happening. It was clear that a lot of students were suffering from sticker shock."

Consumer distress: "Prices are insane," said Len Angelo, business student. "My accounting book was \$55, used. That's a lot of money for a used book."

Dimitry said he was concerned the high cost of books might give students "a real disadvantage" in pursuit of a good education.

"I was doing a lot of eavesdropping and kids were saying, 'That's too much money. I have to drop the course,'" Dimitry

(Continued on page 7)

City's image concerns students

Others say Lawrence campus safer than Haverhill due to better security

By KERRY O'BRIEN
Observer News Editor

While some students sway from taking classes at the Lawrence campus because of the city's poor reputation, the campus staff ensures safety for its students.

Kathy Rodger, Lawrence campus director, said fears of the Lawrence campus need to be relaxed and the existing anxiety is a problem that needs to be fixed. She said the security guards work like a S.W.A.T. team and the facilities are superior to the Haverhill

campus.

"People don't get mugged, assaulted or jumped crossing the street from the parking lot," she said.

Paranoid: But Kelly Horstkotte, nursing student, said she would never take a class at the Lawrence campus. She said she wouldn't leave her car there, and locks her doors while traveling through the area the campus is located in.

"Even getting in and out of the car is scary as hell," Horstkotte said.

Aron Liar, liberal arts student, also said he

wouldn't drive through Lawrence to take a class.

"It's a pretty bad neighborhood with a high crime rate, gangs and drive-by shootings," Liar said.

Those student responses stem from ignorant attitudes, said Alan Hislop, English as a second language instructor. He said students need to see past their prejudices, and they won't have problems on the campus unless they create them.

Misconceptions: "There aren't angry (Continued on page 5)

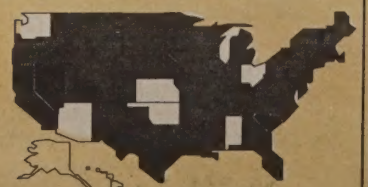
Today's Infographic

Welfare cuts

Many states have made sharp cuts in aid to poor families. Recent state actions on benefits:

Aid to Families with Dependent Children
Change in basic benefits, fiscal year 1993

Increased benefits
Froze benefits
Reduced benefits



SOURCE: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

03/01/93

KRT Infographics

Looking within to stop hatred

Homophobia cured by introspection

Intolerance, the basest form of egoism, can be traced to an understandable need to protect oneself from what threatens.

Some students obviously feel threatened by overtly homosexual people on campus. Rather than examining what's inside themselves, some choose to turn on the fear, uncertainty and even shame that the idea of homosexuality stirs within them. They turn on the perceived source of the bad feelings — their fellow students who aren't afraid to show they're gay.

Homophobia stems from a fear of

Observer Editorial

being gay. Homophobic people perpetuate the disorder by giving others good reason to fear being gay. Discriminating against homosexuals in the brutal fashion sanctified by popular culture denies basic civil rights to millions of Americans.

Colleges must remain on the vanguard of change. NECC students need only take the responsibility for their own feelings to start healing our sick society.



Former student regrets OSD job cut

To the editor:

Life on a college campus can be very lonely when you're old enough to be almost everyone's mother.

That was my situation in November 1985. It was my second semester at NECC and I hadn't made a single friend. The only people I talked to were my teachers.

One evening, I was participating in my first Social Club activity dinner at Bishop's in Lawrence. What a wonderful evening it was.

The food was delicious, everyone was friendly and I discovered that NECC had other students over the age of 18. I also met someone who was to play a very important part in my life over the next several years — Linda Comeau.

Everyone equal: Comeau was staff assistant in NECC's Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). She started the Social Club the previous semester and was one of its advisers. Although the Social Club was started primarily for disabled students, everyone is welcome. Membership is a mix of traditional and nontraditional students. Some members are disabled while others are not. The club's philosophy is that everyone is equal.

In January 1986, I started attending club meetings and activities regularly. I had always found it difficult to function as part of a group; however, I did not experience this problem in the Social Club. The reason for this was Linda Comeau. Comeau went out of her way to make sure everyone was comfortable. She introduced new members to current members. During activities, she took turns talking with each member and did her best to make sure everyone had a good time. If a member with a disability needed help, she either offered it or asked another member.

Through the Social Club, I found the friends I needed to make my college experience enjoyable. I took classes with club members, talked with them in hallways and sat

Observer Letters

with them in the cafeteria. We planned activities and enjoyed them together. School was now much more than writing papers and studying for exams.

The Social Club holds fund raisers, primarily bake sales, to raise money for its activities and for worthy causes. On the day of a bake sale, Comeau usually arrived about 7:30 a.m. and helped club members set up. She assigned jobs and made sure everyone understood what they were supposed to do. She also left a contribution of baked goods or her popular homemade chicken soup. Later, she returned to see that everything was running smoothly. By participating in club bake sales and other fund raisers, I learned to work as a member of a team.

Individual attention: I have also known Comeau as a counselor. I am disabled and I needed services from the OSD to survive in college. Since I am a heavy person, I cannot fit comfortably into chairs with desks attached. Each semester, Comeau made sure that there was a separate desk and chair in each of my classrooms.

Since I was not a good student in high school, I suffer from a lack of self confidence. My academic life at NECC was characterized by an almost overwhelming desire to drop courses. Often, however, Comeau was able to persuade me to keep courses I thought I could never pass.

An example of this is my most hated college course, English Composition II. Because of my low grades in high school, I was placed in very basic English classes. Therefore, I had no experience with interpretation. I panicked and dropped the course. When I looked through the NECC catalog for a degree program that didn't require Comp. II,

I was unable to find one. Reluctantly, I once again registered for the course. This time, I discussed my problem with Comeau. She not only offered encouragement but suggested various sources of academic support. I completed the course with a grade of "B."

In spring 1987, I almost dropped out of NECC. A serious personal problem caused me to miss time from school and fall behind in my work. By the mid-term, I was so far behind I was sure I would fail. Comeau encouraged me to stay. I did, and although my grades dropped, I passed all my courses.

Graduation congratulations: On graduation day 1988, Comeau went from room to room congratulating OSD students and providing whatever services were needed. As she helped me put on my cap and gown, Comeau tried to calm my nerves. I realized I had worked seven semesters for this day. Without Comeau and the OSD, I probably would not have been able to complete my degree.

In September 1992, I returned to take one course. Comeau welcomed me and made me feel that I was once more part of NECC.

Twice I had problems with my course and wanted to drop it. Both times Comeau persuaded me not to do this. She also helped me with personal problems. Everything was the same as before I left with one exception — Comeau was much busier. I had to wait longer to meet with her — sometimes as long as two weeks.

Hiring freeze: When I was working on my degree, Comeau held the position of staff assistant at OSD and worked with director Rubin Russell. At that time, I could usually meet with one of them within a day or two of the time I requested an appointment. Now Russell was on a leave of absence. Since a hiring freeze prevented NECC from filling his position, Comeau was trying to do the work of two people.

Russell's contract allowed him to return to

his position of OSD director. He did this in January 1993. At this time, Comeau was transferred to admissions. She called me before school started to inform me of changes in the OSD and the Social Club, which is now run by Russell.

Comeau's transfer to admissions was not caused by Russell's return. Her OS position has been state-funded for the past 10 years. The administration of NECC chose to eliminate the position of staff assistant OSD and create the position of staff assistant in Admissions. Because this was one, no one can be hired to replace Comeau, she said.

I am not enrolled as a student of NECC; however, according to Comeau, there are approximately 150 disabled students receiving services from the OSD. I feel they have the right to the same level of services I received while working on my degree.

Since a hiring freeze prevented Russell's position from being filled, the administration of NECC was not responsible for the lower level of services provided during his absence. When he returned, they could have chosen to keep Comeau in the OSD as his assistant, however. That would have assured that currently enrolled disabled students would receive a higher level of services.

According to Russell, NECC once provided better services for disabled students than any public college in Massachusetts. Only a few large private colleges, such as Northeastern University and Boston College, exceeded this school in the level of services provided, Russell said.

I feel very strongly that NECC should once again take the position of leadership in helping people with disabilities obtain a college education. I feel that whatever problems currently exist in admissions should be solved without removing a dedicated and experienced counselor from the OSD.

Marcia Beaulieu

NECC Observer

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The NECC Observer is a public forum dedicated to the ideals of quality journalism. To contribute — Signed letters or guest columns are always welcome, especially if they concern NECC campus events, people, or issues. Due to space limitations, we reserve the right to edit all material. Deadline for next issue: March 10.

National Pacemaker Award—Associated Collegiate Press

Gold Crown Award—Columbia Scholastic Press Association

New England College Newspaper of the Year—New England Newspaper Association

Best of Show—Associated Collegiate Press, Chicago, Fall 1992

'Observer' column 'off base'

Limbaugh article stirs up controversy among supporters

To the editor:

Reading Bill Burke's column, *Rush to Obscurity*, I had to wonder what Rush Limbaugh had to have done to irk this left-thinking "journalist" into penning such a knee-jerk, shoot-from-the-hip poison-piece. You would think Limbaugh had perhaps kicked the Burke family dog. Limbaugh's insightful analysis, sharp wit, bright sense of humor and irreverent flair for showmanship makes for an invigorating breath of fresh air in the otherwise stagnant atmosphere of today's media culture.

Furthermore, what, pray tell, is wrong with a "freshly scrubbed, tie-wearing" audience that shows and emanates an air of class? Perhaps we should fill the studio seats with foul-smelling, ragged-looking, homeless individuals (I'm sorry, politically-correct speaking it's "urbanely displaced"). As far as being a "reactionary zombie" or an "ideological lemming" who is incapable of free thought or intelligence, I will personally put my dean's list abilities and intellect up against Burke's

on an IQ test any day of the week.

The personal attacks on Limbaugh, such as "his ample posterior" or the label of "fascist" just go to strengthen his contention: "Frustrated by the fact they (liberals) have no credible or factual armaments in their arsenal, they must fire salvos of personal shots at myself."

Like it or not, Burke, Limbaugh is here to stay!

John DeLano,
liberal arts

Observer Corrections

Due to an advertising department error, the deadline listed for students to submit petitions to graduate was incorrect. The actual deadline is March 5, 1993.

Erroneously omitted from the Dean's List page were Tom Duggan and Marie Whittier.

Current tax system part of the problem

Different assessment methods key to closing loopholes, foiling tax cheats, creating fairness

By TIM JOHNSTON
Observer Opinion Editor

Once again, the old adage has been confirmed. Taxation is one of the two surest things on earth. Polls show the majority of Americans seem to be almost resigned to this proverb and are generally accepting the impending taxes of the new administration with a grain of salt. Most feel that change (taxation), although painful, is necessary.

What remains to be seen are the effects, for better or worse, the new taxes will have on the nation's economy. Making a prediction based on past trends would indicate that few earth-shattering benefits are likely to appear. One would also have to predict that most of the sacrifice will be heaped, once again, on those ever-so-broad shoulders of the next generation.

The American taxation system is much of the reason for this. As it stands, the average U.S. citizen pays less federal, state, local and payroll taxes than any other average citizen in the developed world. Even though this is the case, one rarely hears Americans complaining that they are not paying their fair share and would like to help out more.

Creative bookkeeping: In fact, tax evasion, whether legal or illegal, is almost a national pastime. The main reason for this is the way the United States levies its taxes: people's income is primarily where the revenue comes from.

Most Americans would say "Where's the problem in that? We've been paying income tax for decades. It's obviously the only way to do it."

One of the problems with it is the marginal rate which the country adopted during the Reagan years. The marginal rate is what is supposed to guarantee that the rich pay what

they can afford and also supposedly ensures that the poor don't pay what they cannot.

Reaganomics: In most countries, the marginal rate is often much higher for the rich than for the poor. The top U.S. tax bracket in the in 1981, had to pay a marginal tax rate of 70 percent. The rate was chopped by Reagan to less than the 32 percent it stands at today. Those rich enough to find themselves in the top tax bracket love the fact that their accountants can find enough loopholes in the system so that by February, less than 5 percent of their income will be paid as tax.

The working poor and middle class, without the benefit of personal accountants, of course, often end up paying their taxes near the marginal rate, which is slightly less than the 31 percent the rich supposedly pay.

What we see, these days, during the recession, is that the poor and the middle class are often unable to afford the taxes whether fairly or unfairly imposed on them.

Detrimental dealings: Everyone reading this has a friend or knows someone who works "under the table" for straight cash in order to avoid paying income tax. While this seems to be a great way to beat the system, and may seem like the only option for some, it definitely has its drawbacks.

When people work "off the books" they not only pass the burden of heavier taxes to others, they also leave themselves high and dry when it comes to compensation, medical benefits, safe working conditions, and many other government-regulated advantages.

This steadily growing "black labor market," if left unchecked, could eventually leave the country with a lot of retirement-age people with absolutely no way of supporting them-



selves, aside from social security, which they haven't paid a dime for in the first place.

Different design: Perhaps what is needed to make the system more fair to the middle and lower classes, and also make "black labor" a less attractive option, is to adopt a Value Added Tax (VAT).

Most of the world imposes a VAT as a consumption tax similar to sales tax, instead of a heavy reliance on income taxation for the bulk of revenue. A VAT is collected at each stage of the production process and is reflected in the final price of all goods. This means the more you consume, the more you pay.

If tax evasion is your thing, then just don't buy anything. Saving your money is the only way to avoid paying this tax. It would stand to reason that rich people consume more than poor people and would consequently have to pay a higher share of tax as well. As long as concessions are made to ensure that food and shelter are not overpriced for the poor (green

stamps, maybe?), this may be a more equitable system of assessment.

The Europeans, Canadians and Japanese have all proven that VATs can raise big chunks of revenue and the United States is the only large economy without one.

At odds: The only problem with VATs is the fact that most conservatives think of them as nothing but money-machines for the government and that most liberals think of them as nothing more than regressive.

With such an extreme difference of opinion, it makes sense that there is a middle ground somewhere that should and could be located.

The American system of taxation has its problems (like any other in the world) and there is little optimism that the changes put forth by the Clinton administration are going to quickly put the country on the highway to rapid recovery. So perhaps now, rather than later, is the time to re-examine the issue of tax reform.

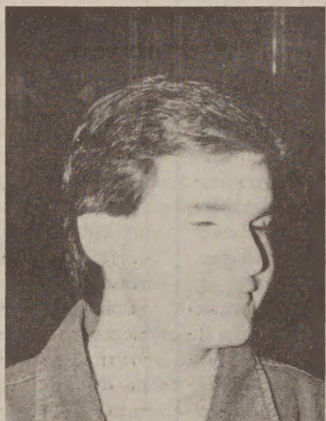
Will the president's tax proposals lower the deficit?



Jose Esterada, chemical engineering
"The deficit will probably go down a little bit, but he'll probably only be able to slow it down a bit. It's just rising too fast."



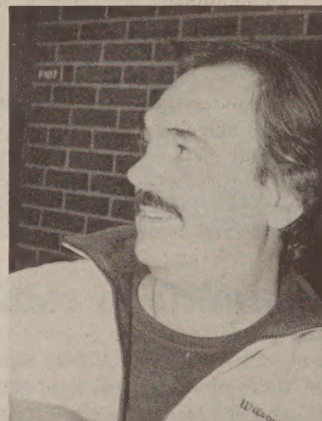
Christine Neumeyer, liberal arts
"I think the deficit is totally and wildly out of control, so even though I would like to see it go down, I don't think Clinton can do anything about it."



Randy Marchand, mental health
"I think it's going to make a difference if Congress doesn't dilute it. They probably will, though, and the deficit won't be reduced by quite as much."



Lauren Geraghty, general studies/illustration
"I think his proposals will take the burden off the middle-class and put it on the rich. It depends how people react to the tax."



Jim Palladino, mental health
"I don't think it will make a big difference. He's still spending a lot, so if it decreases at all, it will only make a small dent."

D. Fraser photos

Reader looks for more tolerance from student body

To the editor:

This is a response to the Feb. 15 issue of the *NECC Observer* on the subject of gays and lesbians on campus. The few powerful things I have to say are to hopefully encourage peace and understanding, not blind truth and falsified understanding.

You could say I am political and correct. I am a student at NECC, where I wish to receive my degree in international relations. But along the way, my fellow students, "relations" is what I will be studying more. I am a lesbian, a "womon," an American. Even though it takes all kinds to make it, I would like to point out a few things about the simple fears gays and lesbians have at NECC:

- purposeful ignorance by the male population based on their fear of "NON-PUSS-UNIM" (not getting any because of "dykes");
- smart and indignant remarks if a

Observer Letter

"Womon of Choice" makes a "Pro-Feminist" remark;

□ and simple refusal to accept a well-known fact that all feminists are not necessarily lesbians, and if a lesbian speaks up she is not pushing her sexuality up front.

Hate does not stop AIDS; curiosity and the power to persevere does. Gay men on campus should not have straight people making rude remarks. (Are we not adults here?)

If I walk down the hall with my lover, I am walking her down the hall, not being blatant. That would be like kissing her down-right-wild, like men and "womyn." And if I did, "I ain't misbehavin.'" I am a person, a human in love.

I wish to comment on Jay Watson's re-

Understanding

Check yourself before you wreck yourself.

We only came to NECC to get an education, like everyone else. We want peace - for the future, for our children, for us.

mark in the Feb. 17 issue. I personally believe that your statement is very ignorant and close-minded. What is "sick and immoral" is to deny a group of people the right to come together to help strengthen their personal lives.

Also, concerning the incident which took place on Feb. 17, 1993, in C-Building, I want everyone to know the emotional impact that this confrontation had on my lover and me,

and that it is the same as a minority getting harassed by white racists for being a minority.

Check yourself before you wreck yourself. We only came to NECC to get an education, like everyone else. We want peace - for the future, for our children, for us.

Please, I ask everyone to think about what you say before you say it. It could cost you an important place in the future.

S.E. Intrisrathavong, liberal arts

Reader accuses columnist of 'hate crimes'

To the editor:

Regarding the hate mongering, bigoted, Nazi tactics of Bill Burke's column, *Rush to Obscurity*, regardless of your opinion of Rush Limbaugh, whom I am convinced you never really listened to, let me suggest, sir, that you take a few history classes. Then, hire yourself a lawyer.

The hurling of epithets at any person or groups of people because of the group they belong to, by even your standards, is a hate crime of monstrous proportions. Yet this is the phobia you have engaged in. You, sir, are a hypocrite hiding behind the mask of good intentions and false sensitivity.

You write: "... all right-thinking little fascists (your term for conservatives) know that a woman's place is in the home ..." In this blatant, stereotypical epithet, you assume and espouse the belief that anyone who is conservative is an "ideological lemming." Isn't this the equivalent to saying all blacks eat watermelon?

In fact, it is the philosophy of the leftists such as yourself who engage in Nazi tactics of trying to censor speech and thought, cloning people into politically clean zombies and criminalizing politics that disagree with you.

Censorship: It is those on the left who are advocating speech codes on college campuses and labeling some offensive speech a hate crime punishable by federal statute. Dr. King would be AGHAST!

Perhaps you just need a history class. Wasn't this intolerance the brainchild of Adolf Hitler? "Kill anyone, cast out anyone who exercises free speech to oppose your politics."

Observer Letter

To be well-informed, you need both sides to every story. Rush Limbaugh tolerantly encourages dissension and debate while providing a conservative balance of the dominant liberal media culture. Even if you do not agree with him, he has the right to do what he's doing. Sorry.

Past mistakes: As a 26-year-old, I remember (but please do read your history books) about bell-bottoms, double-digit inflation, soaring interest rates and economic devastation. They were the Carter years. It was economic policies that were so counter-productive that economists had to invent a new way of measuring the economy. Remember the Malaise Factor (unemployment plus inflation rate)?

But people like you would rather label and disregard someone rather than encourage debate and discussion. You would rather close your mind to these facts. You advocate my tax dollars going to art even if I find it offensive.

On this you cite the First Amendment. But you shamefully disregard the First Amendment when someone engages in speech that you find offensive.

Under Reagan, unemployment and the economy was the best this century. Oops! I forgot that you labeled that greed instead of successful conservative economic policy.

Closed-minded: Mr. Burke, your priorities are self-serving hypocrisy at best. At worst, they are a danger to capitalism and yes, free speech. Instead of a history class perhaps you

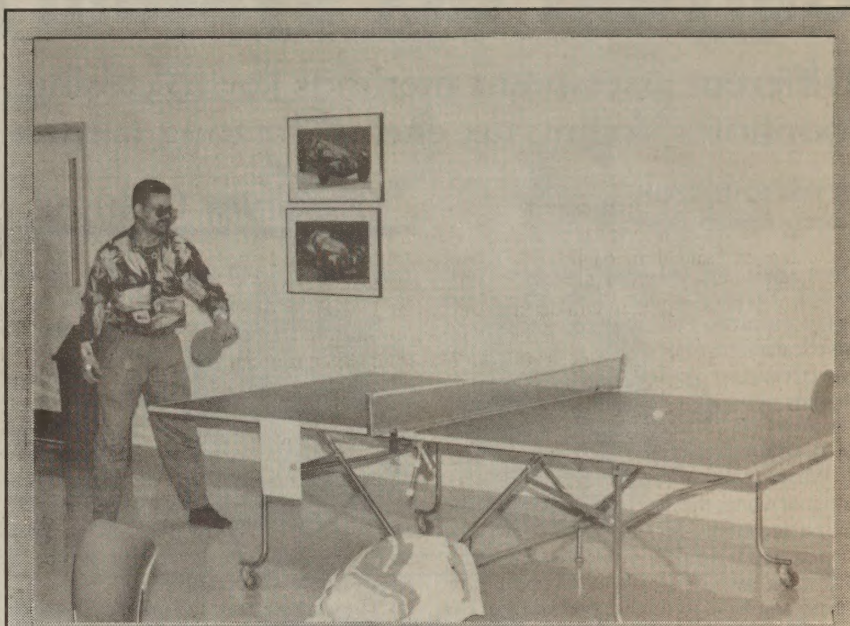


Table tennis titans

D. Fraser photo

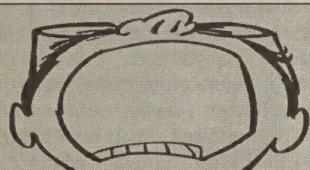
LIBERAL ARTS students Miguel Rafael and Chi Nguyen spend a few spare moments smashing forehands at each other at the Lawrence campus.

should try the liberal solution, sensitivity training toward conservatives and those who don't agree with you.

As a "tic-wearing, freshly scrubbed, (happily) butt-clenched" Republican who does

not always agree with Rush Limbaugh (yet listen to him anyway), I accuse you. You, sir, have offended me and violated my civil rights. See you in court.

Tom Duggan



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Sun. closed

Lawrence – from page 1

gangs there like the Roxbury rage," Hislop said. "Students don't become innocent victims at the Lawrence campus."

Rodger said there is no reason for students to feel uneasy while at the Lawrence campus. She said the campus is battling 1,000 without one crime or race-related incident.

"We haven't had one car stolen or damaged," said Nunzio DiMarca, assistant registrar. "You take a bigger risk in Haverhill than you do in Lawrence."

DiMarca said the Lawrence staff has proved it possible to beat the threatening perception of the city. He said the campus projects a proud and positive image regardless of any negativity about the city. Lawrence has problems, but they aren't reflected in the school, he said.

Preference: Faith Baxley, paralegal student, prefers NECC/Lawrence to Haverhill. She said students who are petrified to take classes in Lawrence have a ridiculous fear.

"The arsonists, thieves and criminals are out on the streets," Baxley said. "They're not taking classes. My car is safer in Lawrence. The building isn't beat on, there isn't any vandalism and I like the smaller atmosphere better."

Rodger said students have to realize they won't experience personal harm and can depend on protection. People are there to learn,

not to cause trouble, she said.

"Some students have the attitude that they're entering the battle zone," Rodger said. "They don't realize they'll come out alive. Some are so frightened they're more apt to miss out on their course than take one that is only offered in Lawrence."

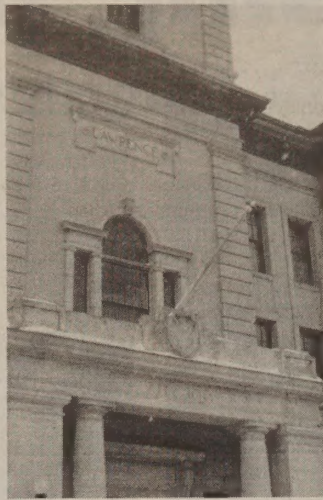
Limited materials: Heather Morris, nursing student, would rather not take a class if it is only offered at Lawrence. She said resources for nursing aren't available in Haverhill which is unfair to students who aren't comfortable going to NECC/Lawrence.

"All of the nursing journals are at the Lawrence campus," Morris said. "But I'm too worried to even go there to get them. The nursing program must be affected negatively when people find out they have to go to Lawrence for it."

Sylvia Hallsworth, director of the nursing program, said there aren't any complaints within the nursing program. She said the campus has a hospitable and pleasant atmosphere nursing students are happy with.

"The changeover to the Lawrence campus was difficult at first," Hallsworth said. "But it was short-lived. Nursing students were surprised with the security."

Hesitation: Accounting student Ken Dion said some of the wariness about taking a class in Lawrence is



justifiable.

"The campus is located in a rough place," Dion said. "If I had to take a class in Lawrence I would, but only as a last resort."

Sgt. Felix Padial, National Guard Recruiter at NECC/Lawrence, said the school is a valuable resource to the community's status because it represents pride to students. He said the campus is an asset of dignity which has brought people back into downtown Lawrence.

"The Lawrence campus is a little light in a dark room bringing a brighter future to the city," Padial said.



Imagen de Lawrence preocupa estudiantado

By KERRY O'BRIEN

Editora de Noticias - Observer
Trad.: Poe Mario O'Noris

Hay personas que no ingresan al campo de Lawrence por la conocida reputación de la ciudad; mientras tanto el personal de allí trabaja con ahinco por plena seguridad del lugar.

Kathy Rodger, directora del centro docente, dice que ese temor debe aplacar, y que a dicha ansiedad hay que buscar solución. Asegura que los guardias de seguridad trabajan como las fuerzas especiales de la policía (S.W.A.P.) y que las facilidades superan a las del centro de Haverhill.

"Aquí a la gente no se molesta, asalta o sorprende al cruzar las calles desde el estacionamiento", explica.

Paranolca: Por otro lado, Kelly Horstkotte, estudiante de enfermería, dice que jamás tomaría una sola clase en Lawrence. Apunta que no dejaría su carro allí, y que lo mantiene bien cerrado mientras viaja hacia el centro.

"Solo el entrar o salir del auto me aterra", dice Horstkotte.

Aron Liar, estudiante de artes liberales, también dice que no manejaría hacia la escuela a través de la ciudad de Lawrence.

"Es un lugar malo con un alto porcentaje de crimen, pandillas y disparos desde autos en marcha", dice Liar.

Esa actitud es efecto del desconocimiento de esos estudiantes, dice Allan Hislop, maestro de ESL. Explica que los estudiantes deben eliminar sus prejuicios, y de este modo no habrán de tener problemas, al menos que ellos mismos no lo creen.

Concepto erróneo: "Allí no hay pandillas infernales como los 'Roxbury Rage'", afirma Hislop. "Los estudiantes del campo de Lawrence no sufren el percance de convertirse en víctimas inocentes".

Rodger dice que no hay motivos para sentirse inseguros en el campo de Lawrence. Explica que el centro "batea" para un promedio de mil puntos, sin un solo crimen o incidente por racismo.

"Aquí nadie ha averiado o robado un solo auto", dice Nunzio DiMarca, asistente de inscripciones. "Usted corre mayores riesgos en Haverhill".

Dimarca señala que el personal de Lawrence

ha sido competente haber probado la percepción equivocada sobre la ciudad. Dice que el centro de Lawrence planifica seguir adelante, sin tomar en cuenta a esos que contemplan la ciudad en forma negativa. Lawrence tiene sus problemas, pero no en la escuela, apunta.

Preferencia: Faith Baxley, estudiante paralegal, prefiere el NECC de Lawrence al de Haverhill. Dice que esos estudiantes aterrados con asistir a clases en Lawrence, son ridículos.

"Los pirómanos (quema-casas), ladrones y otros delincuentes andan sueltos", dice Baxley. "Pero no entran a las aulas. Mi auto está más seguro en Lawrence. El edificio permanece intacto; allí no hay delincuencia, además, el ambiente es acogedor".

Rodger dice que los estudiantes pueden confiar en que no pasarán malas experiencias, además tenemos seguridad para protegerlos.

"Algunos estudiantes actúan como si penetraran un campo de batalla", dice Rodger. "No se dan cuenta de que siempre salen vivos del local. Unos son tan temerosos que deciden no ingresar a alguna clase llevada a cabo sólo en Lawrence".

Fuentes inaccesibles: Heather Morris, estudiante de enfermería, prefiere no tomar clase si ésta es llevada a cabo en Lawrence. Dice que las mayores fuentes de su carrera no están en Haverhill, lo cual es injusto para estudiantes que no se sienten bien con ir al campo de NECC en Lawrence.

"Los jornales de enfermería están en el campo de Lawrence", dice Morris. "Pero sólo el pensar ir allí en pos de ellos me preocupa. El programa de enfermería tiene que sentir sus efectos al tener la gente que ir por éste a Lawrence".

Sylvia Hallsworth, directora del programa, dice que no ha habido quejas entre los que lo cursan. Expone que el campo es acogedor y placentero y que los estudiantes están contentos.

"La mudanza a Lawrence fue difícil al principio, dice Hallsworth. "Pero eso fue lo de menos. Los estudiantes se sintieron sorprendidos con el servicio de seguridad".

Cautela: El estudiante de contabilidad Ken Dion dice que algunas de las precauciones para ingresar a clases en Lawrence se justifican y deben considerarse.

"El centro educativo está localizado en un lugar peligroso", dice Dion. "Si debiera tomar

clases en Lawrence, lo haría como último recurso".

El sargento Félix Padial, reclutador de la Guardia Nacional de NECC en Lawrence, dice que la escuela es una fuente de valor para el nivel comunal ya que hace sentir orgullosos a los estudiantes. Dice que el campo es un digno alcance que después de tantos años ha poblado el centro comercial de Lawrence.

"El campo estudiantil de Lawrence es una luz pequeña en un cuarto oscuro que como sol habrá de alumbrar el porvenir de la ciudad", expresa Padial.



Shades of difference

J. Quinn and D. Fraser photos

DIVERSE LOCALES in Lawrence range from City Hall, left, to the troubled area of Parker and Springfield Streets, top, to the District Court, bottom.

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Observer Briefs

Co-op program retrains workers for biotech jobs

Fifteen unemployed local residents are training for new careers as electronic medical equipment repair technicians in the fast growing biomedical instrumentation field as part of an NECC grant-funded program that began last fall.

Judy Allain of Haverhill has a story typical of many of the students in the program. The 34-year-old mother of two young children left her job with a well-known electronics company in spring 1991 after 14 years of employment. She has been actively looking for work, but without success.

Allain's interest in the medical field, combined with her experience with electronics, made her a perfect candidate for the program.

Medical ambition: "This was a really good opportunity for me," she said. "I wanted to work in the medical field, but I wasn't too keen on the idea of direct care."

Although it has been 18 years since she has been in the classroom, Allain is doing well with a full course load.

"I am finding the work very interesting and I am looking forward to a new career," she said.

Funded by a \$39,000 grant from the Lawrence Department of Training and Development, the medical equipment repair and technology program is separated into three parts: 20 weeks of classroom study, eight weeks of job placement preparation and a 12-week cooperative education job placement.

Concentrations: Classroom work focuses on installing, operating, repairing and maintaining computer equipment; troubleshooting malfunctions of medical equipment and the computers that drive the equipment; training individuals in medical equipment operations and maintenance; utilizing proper customer relations practices and communications skills; and appropriate safety issues.

During the job placement preparation component, students will work with advisers in the college's cooperative education department on developing a resume, interviewing and job search skills.

While in the program, students will become familiar with medical equipment such as heart monitors, oscilloscopes and ultrasound machines.

Future goals: After graduating, they will be qualified for jobs in health care facilities or in research and development and manufacturing for medical instrumentation and biotechnology firms.

For more information, call Deborah Scire, director of cooperative education, at 374-3722.

Consulting class to run March 6

Just about everyone has the dream of someday working for themselves. NECC Division of Continuing Education Community Services can turn that dream into a reality for students who attend an upcoming seminar.

The *How to Become a Consultant* seminar will be held on Saturday, March 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Haverhill campus.

Participants will explore the world of free-lance and corporate consultants, learn how to define their skills and market, identify prospective clients and much more.

Tuition is \$38, including materials. For registration, questions or to receive a brochure on NECC's Division of Continuing Education & Community Services' extensive offerings, contact Mary Jane Gillespie at 688-3181, ext. 220.

Nursing pact signed

Tewksbury graduates to bypass transfer exam

By CHRIS McBRIDE
Observer News Editor

In the past month, NECC has been involved in more deals than a Las Vegas Black Jack player.

The college and Tewksbury State Hospital's School of Practical Nursing have recently come to terms with an agreement.

The agreement allows students from Tewksbury's licensed practical nursing (LPN) program to continue their education and complete the required course load to attain a two-year degree as a registered nurse from NECC.

Test eliminated: Signed Feb. 4, the agreement paves the way for graduates of the Tewksbury program to transfer to NECC and receive eight credits for the first of four nursing courses, without taking the examination transfer students had to complete in the past, said Dolores Haritos, director of nursing education.

"By graduating from the Tewksbury program, the students have already been indoctrinated into the nursing field," she said.

"It took over a year to work out the deal, but we found the programs are compatible, so graduates from 1990-on will be awarded credit and admitted into NECC's Nursing II program," Haritos said.

Pre-1990 graduates will not be accepted directly into the program, however, because the school's programs were not compatible during that time period, she said.

Hindrance: "For years, there was no agreement between the nursing programs, so students had an added obstacle to hurdle in order to continue their education," said Paul Bevilacqua, chairperson, division of human services and health professions.

"It was like a ballplayer being called up from the minor leagues to play in the majors and told, 'Now we're going to teach you how to run, hit and throw,'" he said. "It makes no sense because the ballplayer has already learned these skills; he just needs more experience to



Medical opportunity

AT THE signing of the nursing agreement between NECC and Tewksbury State Hospital were M. Brennan, D. Haritos, R. Sanzone, P. Bevilacqua, division chairperson, R. McDonald, dean of academic affairs, F. Keough and G. Dyer.

succeed. Basically, it's the same thing with the nursing program. The Tewksbury graduates don't need to be retrained. They already have the foundation of needed skills."

Haritos said Tewksbury Hospital was interested in providing its students with an opportunity to continue their education.

"The hospital hires many of its graduates," she said. "This way it supplies itself with trained LPNs and now with this agreement, trained RNs also."

Give and take: "It's a good deal for the schools because we (NECC) get more students," Haritos said. "Tewksbury gets workers trained to fit the needs of the hospital, and the students get the opportunity to pursue a degree."

NECC also has a similar agreement with Salem State's nursing program that enables students to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing if they decide to continue in the field.

Haritos said she is happy the two schools have to come to terms.

"There is an abundance of opportunities in this field, and we think we do a good job training the students for their future," she said.

Bevilacqua said he hopes Tewksbury graduates will take advantage of the agreement and enroll in the RN program to further their education, setting their sights on degrees.

"The students should take advantage of this opportunity because they have the most to gain from the deal," he said.

Harassment - from page one

Other people have been getting into Intrasilathavong and Rivera's business all during their first semester at NECC, witnesses said.

Hostility: John Peroni, dean of continuing education and community services, recalls a brief encounter between Rivera and Intrasilathavong and four or five students while they passed in the corridor near his B-Building office, shortly before classes began.

"The guys were saying to each other, but certainly loud enough for the girls to hear them, 'Look at the dykes,' or something to that effect," Peroni said. "By the time it was over, everyone was gone. I didn't even have the time to react."

Trouble for the two began earlier that day, when they were registering for classes, they said. A young man grabbed Rivera by the arm and told her she had a pretty face, Intrasilathavong said. Intrasilathavong said she reacted naturally, as would a boyfriend if his girlfriend was handled in this manner.

"I told him, 'Don't ever touch her or speak to her again,'" she said.

They haven't seen that student at NECC since, but said they've been harassed by others that associate with him. Later the same day, another young man saw Rivera in the hallway with her arm draped on Intrasilathavong's shoulder.

Antagonized: "He started screaming, 'You're dykes! You're devils!'" Rivera said. "He shouted, 'You're gonna burn in hell!'" Those were his exact words."

The harassment continued in the cafeteria. Some of the students involved in the earlier incident found Rivera with a friend, whom they assumed was also a lesbian. While the group of four or five young men followed them, one persisted with unwanted sexual advances, she said.

"He told me, 'I'll f-k you the right way. I'll turn you straight,'" she said.

Every day while walking to class the comments continued, ranging from laughing and pointing to slurs such as "genital eatin' bitches," they said.

Taking action: Strangie was notified and documented the incidents weeks before the last episode in C-Building. On that day, the girls were sitting in the cafeteria filling out an incident report from a security officer they found coming in from traffic duty after the confrontation was over.

Peroni happened to be sitting at the same table, and overheard their conversation. He told them they should go to speak with Norman Landry, dean of student affairs. There they began the process of filing charges against Fernandez.

Asked whether a student can be disciplined for making offensive comments to another student, Landry said he wasn't sure, and couldn't speculate until he sees the charges, which had yet to be filed at the time.

"You're probably familiar with the controversy of hate speech and the constitutional implications there," he said. "I'm not sure this is an instance of this, but it may be."

Colleges across the nation have disciplined students under campus rules banning hate speech, and many decisions have been challenged in court under the First Amendment right to free speech - some successfully.

Equality: NECC has adopted the Policy in Support of Pluralism drafted by the Community Colleges of Massachusetts, which aims to keep higher education open to all.

"This policy condemns all conditions and all actions or omissions, including all acts of verbal harassment or abuse, which deny or have the effect of denying to an individual his/her rights to equality, dignity and security in violation of his/her rights guaranteed under the law," the policy says.

It goes on to say, however, "The Community Colleges recognize their obligation to

protect the rights of free inquiry and expression, and nothing herein shall be construed or applied so as to abridge the exercise of rights under the Constitution of the United States and other federal and state laws."

Landry said there's a difference between free speech and harassment. Faculty have an obligation to ensure a safe, productive learning environment for all their students, he said.

Intrasilathavong said she supports the spirit of the First Amendment unquestionably, but that it wasn't meant to protect hate crimes.

Ostracized: "I believe everyone has the right to freedom of speech, but when it comes to hate, you're putting mental fear into someone," she said. "That's oppression. When you're talking about oppressing a group of people, that's violating their civil rights."

As dean of student affairs, Landry handles charges against students under the rules of due process, which state that students are subject to college discipline for involvement in harassment and disruptive or disorderly conduct, among other things, and are entitled to hearings and appeals.

Sanctions range from admonition, an oral statement to the student that he or she has violated college rules, to expulsion, dismissal from the college without the right to apply for readmission.

"We want the punishment to be very stiff, so that he and his friends will think twice before harassing anyone" - not just gays; whether a handicapped, a woman or whatever," Intrasilathavong said.

Verbal violence

"He started screaming, 'You're dykes! You're devils!'" Rivera said.

Books – from page 1

said. "The worst thing I heard was 'I'm going to try to get through this course without a book.' The net result is they are stretching out their education."

Swap meet: Mark Foynes, student senate member, said, "(Dimitry and I) just ran into each other at the bookstore. We discussed various alternatives to exorbitant prices so that students can avoid the high prices of books."

During Dimitry's meeting with the student senate, Joseph Brown, dean of administration, and Arthur Signorelli, student activities director, the issue of a book-swap was raised.

Run by the student senate, if a book-swap was available, students would give their books to the swap. If the book was sold, the student would get the money. If the book wasn't sold, the student would get the book back, Dimitry said.

But the idea is meeting opposition on whether it is feasible or if some other way of tackling prices would be more effective.

Complications: "I think it would be like opening a can of worms," said Doreen Thompson, student senate member. "Once it's opened up, who's going to run it: the senators? Students may end up getting stuck with books they don't want."

The bookstore has declined comment. "I don't know if it is doable or not," Brown said. "Somebody would have to organize it. Somebody would have to be responsible for it."

The process to get the required textbooks from hundreds of sections available to students on the first day of classes is very complex, Brown said. For the swap to know what books would be needed is difficult, he said.

Foynes said, "I would propose something

less ambitious."

Additional hurdles: "I am also concerned over who in student government would organize the swap," Brown said. "This is going to take a lot of work. A further point that concerns me is we would have to provide this to Lawrence and evening students as well."

For the present, Dimitry has written a letter to the Student Affairs Committee and the All College Council asking them to look into how they can "control the cost of educational material in the classrooms" this spring semester.

Students agree that something should be done.

"I'm all for it," Angelo said. "I would favor getting easy money in any given situation."

Kelly Johnston, early childhood education student, said, "I think prices are ridiculously high."

Not to blame: The high textbook prices are not entirely the fault of the bookstore, Brown said.

"The current contract requires the bookstore to charge either the manufacturer's list price or, if it's lower, the price of books sold in the local area," he said.

"There has been a tremendous escalation in the price of textbooks over the past 10 years. I believe it's due at the publisher's level and not at the bookstore level."

The bookstore, run by Follett College Stores, pays NECC a 7 percent commission to operate its business on campus. It also pays \$1,000 a year for heat, light and power. Other campus bookstores may maintain lower prices because they are subsidized by the college.

Up and up: Dimitry said the creation of the book-swap would not violate the contract with Follett College Stores.



Ch-ching

S. Lachance photo

JOANNE VICTOR, assistant manager for the campus bookstore, tends the till as customers Lisa Reynolds and daughter Jaime make their purchases.

Brown said, "There is nothing to prohibit students from selling books between themselves."

Asked how the bookstore might react to the book-swap, Dimitry said, "I'm not sure they'll be wildly enthusiastic about it, but believe me, it's an effort on our part to lower the prices."

The bookstore could terminate its contract with NECC if they show they are losing money with a 30 day notice.

"If it were that serious, we would sit down with them and figure out some way to change things," Dimitry said.

Existing idea: Brown said the bookstore already has a used-book buy-back system,

where a student can receive up to half the purchase price for a book in good condition if it is required for the coming semester. The book is then sold at 75 percent of the original cost back to students.

"The cost of textbooks is one of the major costs of coming to college," Brown said. "Certainly, we must look into the issue. What the solution is, I don't know."

Whether or not the book-swap theory comes to life, the war on book prices has begun.

"I think it's worth experimenting, and it would be a very practical way to lower book costs," Dimitry said. "We must do everything we can to drive the book prices down."

Senate candidates outline platforms

A special spring election will be held to fill vacancies that have occurred on the Student Senate in areas 1 (liberal arts), 3 (business) and 5 (Lawrence).

Voting will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, March 4, at the Haverhill campus in the cafeteria, and on Friday, March 5, in the C-Building lobby. Elections will also be held at the same time on the Lawrence campus on both days.

One position is open for each of the 1 and 5 areas. Candidates from these areas have been asked to submit a brief statement describing why they think students should vote for them.

There are three positions open in area 3, and three candidates have submitted applications. Since these candidates, Robert S. Bakalyar III, Richmond Wicker and Jezid Pazmino, are not in competition with one another, no statements were solicited from them.

AREA 1, liberal arts:

George Chazulle, liberal arts/paralegal program

Being bilingual myself, I hope to give equal representation to both the Hispanic population and any other culture within school grounds.

Due to major complaints from students about the sale and service of the school bookstore, it is my intention to look into a student-run bookstore or book program.

I also want to emphasize and draw more attention to the athletics program through pep rallies. There isn't enough school spirit for the teams.

James J. Donahue Jr., liberal arts / general studies student

I feel that students are not united like other schools are. I believe there are a lack of programs for students to get involved in.

If elected I would try to bring more school spirit by introducing more social programs. Education is not only about books; it's interacting with others, which develops a well-rounded student.

Tim Page, liberal arts/biology student

I have chosen to run for the Student Senate because it has come to my attention that the Student Senate is in need of active

and dedicated members at this point.

If elected to the Student Senate, I will be dedicated, which entails showing up for all student senate meetings and actively participating in other senate-related activities.

I also wish to provide the senate with more active leadership. I will provide input and opinions on all decisions being made. I also wish to provide the senate with new ideas and a new angle on tackling problems.

Most importantly, if elected I would not neglect or take lightly my responsibility to the student or the students of this school.

Alda Cabrera, liberal arts student

Cabrera did not submit a statement in time for printing.

AREA 5, Lawrence campus:

Marie-Christine Daou, liberal arts/ English as a second language student

I plan to shape the Lawrence campus to give the Lawrence campus everything that's available in Haverhill.

The first step I will take will be talking with many students to find out what their needs are. I hope to bring speakers to the campus to discuss issues like abortion, drugs, AIDS and Lawrence community that affects families, which I understand, as I am happily married with one child.

The transportation problem between the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses and home for those without a car, and problems on campus with baby-sitting services, are also issues I will address.

I have had previous experience as a student senator from 1987-88, while I attended Lebanese Universal College in Lebanon.

Gullermina Estevez, liberal arts/ English as a second language student

I would do the best to help all the students who need help through various activities, funded with the money allocated for Lawrence through the student senate.

I think that my election to senator could be an example and motivation for other students to continue their education. I am a single mother with three children, trying to learn more to get a better life.

I know there's a lot of students like me who find life difficult, and I think showing them that I can make it in life will help them.

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OSD job cut

Students, staff furious over Comeau's recent transfer

By MARYRITA MALLOY
Observer News Editor

The Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) is facing a change. Its assistant director position has been eliminated, causing concern over OSD's growth.

OSD helps NECC meet the special needs of students with physical, emotional and learning disabilities and chronic diseases. The office has been operating for seven years with Rubin Russell serving as director, and Linda Comeau as assistant director.

According to Russell, NECC was the first college to serve students with disabilities full-time.

Worthwhile trek: Many students travel great distances to attend NECC because of OSD's services.

"I live in Dracut, and Middlesex Community College is right near my home, but I decided to attend NECC," said Robin McCarthy, liberal arts student. "At the time I applied to Middlesex, they did not offer a program for students with disabilities."

Three years ago, Russell took a leave of absence, without pay, from NECC, with the knowledge his job would be available upon his return. He left to pursue other avenues that would benefit OSD in the future, and worked with other disabled people. During Russell's absence, Comeau took over OSD, with the office running with one person rather than two, Comeau said.

"Linda took on Rubin's responsibilities on top of her own," said Dennis Miller, liberal arts.

Stunted growth: "It was difficult, but I held it together by bringing work home," Comeau said.

Upon Russell's return during the spring semester, the admissions office was short-staffed, and the budget did not allow room for hiring new employees. The administration filled the void by placing Comeau in the Admissions Office.

"No student has lost Linda's help, she is still at NECC, but her services were greatly needed in Admissions," said Norman Landry, dean of student affairs. "This decision was difficult to make. Linda was open-minded and listened. We negotiated this, and it is working very well."

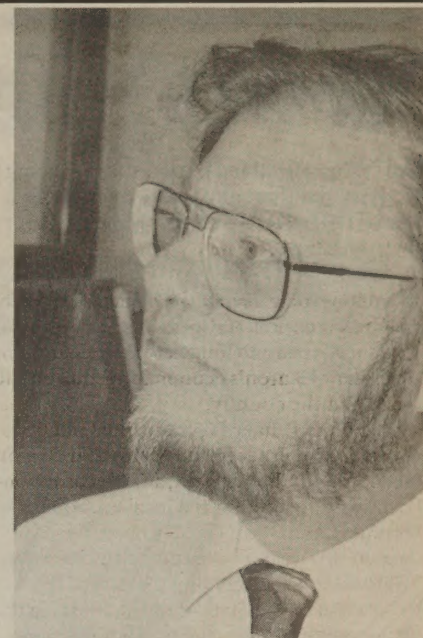
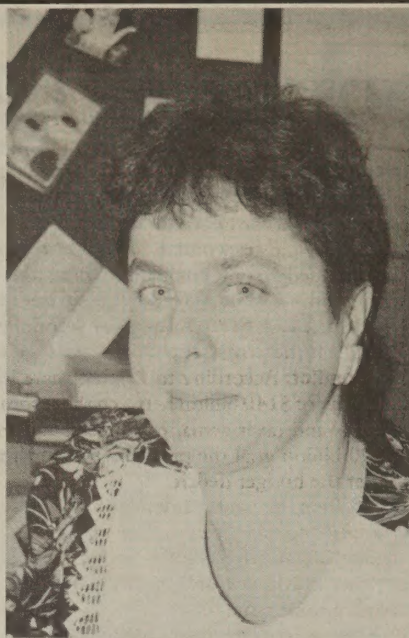
"I understand the psychology of the move, but I wonder if it will hurt the student services at OSD," Comeau said.

"Linda ran a holding process for three years, and the office did not grow over that period of time," Russell said. "My coming back could have developed new services, but with Linda gone this cannot be done."

Many students are upset by the decision to move Comeau. Their anger is focused on the college's administration.

"I don't object to Rubin coming back, and I don't want to replace Rubin with Linda; they should work together," McCarthy said. "Why all of a sudden is the administration deciding to run the OSD office with one person? It has always been run with two."

Conclusive: The decision to transfer Comeau to admissions is final and letters were distributed throughout the Haverhill and Lawrence campus informing students of the



Coming and going

LINDA COMEAU recently moved from the Office of Students with Disabilities to the Admissions Office, when Rubin Russell, director of OSD, returned from leave.

change. "NECC should have given the students a month transition period, but they gave us no warning about Linda's transfer," McCarthy said.

According to Landry, a two-week transition period was given in January before classes began.

"Students involved in OSD are a close unit and news travels fast," Landry said. "I did my best to notify everyone."

Needed help: According to Comeau, OSD job requires more than one person, but she has moved and adjusted to Admissions.

If the Admissions position is filled, Comeau will not return to OSD. The assistant director position at OSD has been eliminated.

"Dean Landry said it is a permanent change, and it should not be," Russell said. "Admissions needs help now and we are glad to help

by giving up one of our positions, but when Admissions is stabilized, Linda should be placed back in OSD."

"This decision is permanent," Landry said. "Admissions always had three people on staff, and with Linda we only have two. We are trying to beef-up Admissions, and Linda was a step in that process."

Bad decision: "The school claims to work toward helping the students, but then they take out a vital person that helps," Miller said. "They did not think about who this would hurt. This is poor business."

According to Landry, the administration is not stopping the service to students with disabilities. NECC devotes all the resources it can to these students.

"We want our services restored, not Rubin gone," McCarthy said. "We need two full-time people in OSD."

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Golfers!

There will be a meeting on
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Softball players!

Batting and throwing practices
will take place on March 15,
from 6 to 8 p.m.
A mandatory meeting will be
held on Monday, March 15,
from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room
129 of the gym.

For more information, see
Coach Donna Johnson in room
133 of the gym, or call ext.
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Advice on Job Search and Resume Writing

Clinton's economic plan may hurt Mass.

'Boston Globe' reporters dissect president's new proposal, concerned about possibilities

By MIKE WOOD
Observer Staff Reporter

Two long-time *Boston Globe* staffers recently painted a critical and pessimistic portrait of the short-term and long-term implications of President Clinton's economic agenda on the state and the country.

Thomas Palmer Jr., lead writer and transportation reporter in the Metro and Region section, and Charles Stein, a *Globe* correspondent who focuses on the local economy and business, came to NECC to participate in a panel discussion dealing with President Clinton and the economy.

Palmer said, "There is much to hate in the Clinton plan." He offered what he called a "critical assessment of the president."

Changing attitudes: The press has been easy on Clinton, but that has changed since he became president, especially now his economic plan has "tumbled out," Palmer said.

"Does Clinton understand economics as well as he understands politics?" Palmer asked.

Stein said although Massachusetts voted for Clinton, "in the short run, the state will have more than its fair share of pain and suffering."

Stein compared the Massachusetts economy to the rest of the country. He cited what he called "the incredible shrinking economy" with businesses getting smaller and jobs disappearing.

Massachusetts has lost 400,000 jobs in the last four years and 50,000 in the last year.

"We ducked the bullet on energy," he said. "New England shouldn't be worse off than anyone else."

Dependence: The same is not true in regard to the budget cuts in national defense. Stein said Massachusetts' industry relies on military spending and will suffer if it is cut.

Palmer raised concerns about the drastic changes Clinton plans to bring about.

"Some of what was practiced before was successful," Palmer said, citing the Reagan and Kennedy administrations as examples. "You don't tax your way out of a recession."

Palmer said most experts predicted Texas billionaire and unsuccessful presidential candidate H. Ross Perot's economic plan would have "croaked the economy." He said Clinton's economic plan, if it passes through Congress, would likewise do the same.

Stein said some cutbacks will also occur in Medicaid and Medicare.

Expense: He said health care accounts for more than 10 percent of Massachusetts' employment. Part of "revamping" health care would lead to fewer jobs in the field. He said the 25,000 new Massachusetts health care jobs were created in the last three years.

"Revamp really means to get control over cost ... but one person's cost is another person's income," Stein said.

According to Stein, consolidation of hospitals is now common in the state. Consolidations would also lead to a loss of jobs, he said. The booming biotechnology industry in the

state may also be affected.

"This industry won't disappear, but it will be damaged ... some companies will be hurt," Stein said.

Palmer said, "The real engine of economic growth is the private sector."

Conflict: According to Palmer, there is a disparity of \$140 billion between the amount of cuts and taxes actually proposed and the \$500 billion goal the president put forth to offset the budget deficit.

"When he was campaigning, Clinton promised to raise taxes only on those with an annual income over \$200,000," Palmer said. "Now, individuals making over \$30,000 will receive some pain."

Palmer said energy taxes would, in the long-term, raise prices and would affect all people whether they have an income over or under \$30,000 a year.

Stein said there will be some positives in the Clinton budget plan over time, especially if medical costs are brought down.

Damage: "In the short-term, however, the Clinton budget plan will cause more harm than good," Stein said. "The sacrifice and contribution may be more than people have accounted for."

Much of the Clinton economic agenda offers too short-term a goal, Palmer said, using the jobs created from the road and bridges reconstruction as an example.

"Roads and bridges will be fixed when they need to be fixed ... these are jobs for the moment and too short-term a goal because they would disappear somewhere down the line," Palmer said.

Stein said no one is quite sure what the tangible benefit in reducing the federal deficit will be.

"We're in the realm of economic theory here ... In theory, if the deficit shrunk, we could pay less in interest rates and mortgage rates," he said.

Criticism: Both Stein and Palmer said they resisted casting all the blame for the federal debt on the trickle-down economics of the Reagan and Bush administrations. Stein cited worldwide competition among the factors that caused the overwhelming federal deficit.

Palmer disagrees with the "rich get richer" and "poor get poorer" generalization claiming the situation was more complex than that.

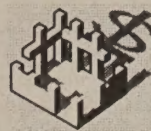
"I blame the media for this idea," Palmer said. "There has been a lot of movement in the top 20 percent economic bracket and the term poverty has been redefined every few years. Things haven't gotten as bad as the popular press has decided. People who make a lot of money can reinvest. Trickle-down economics does work to some extent."

Palmer said Americans need to make up their minds about the country's new direction.

"We need to look carefully and take the politics out of economic planning," he said. "We need to strike with a plan and see that it works."

Clinton's economic plan

Highlights of the economic stimulus, investment and deficit reduction plan President Clinton presented to a joint session of Congress:



Stimulus

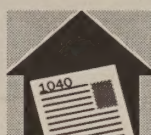
■ **Business tax credit** for investments in new plants and equipment, \$63 billion in 1993

■ **Infrastructure projects:** Roads, bridges, mass transit, education and training, \$3.6 billion over 4 years



Income spurs

■ **Raise earned income tax credit** helps wages for working poor, totaling \$20 billion over 5 years



Tax hikes

■ **Taxes on wealthy:** Individual incomes over \$115,000 and joint incomes over \$140,000, tax from 31% to 36%; 10% surtax on those making over \$250,000

■ **Corporate taxes:** From 34% to 36%

■ **Tax Social Security benefits:** From 50% now to 85% of benefits for couples above \$32,000, singles above \$25,000

■ **Tax energy:** Measured either as a sales tax or by heat content (BTUs)

■ **End executive tax breaks:** For pay over \$1 million

■ **Medicare payroll taxes:** End the cap, \$29 billion over 5 years



Tax breaks

■ **Capital gains tax cut:** By 50% on long-term investments in new small business

■ **R&D tax break:** Make permanent the existing break for investors



Spending cuts

■ **Defense spending:** \$76 billion over four years

■ **Federal bureaucracy:** By 3% per year, workforce by 100,000 over four years, \$9 billion savings

■ **White House staff:** By 25% saving \$10 million in 1994

■ **Federal workers:** Wage freeze for 1994



Spending hikes for long-term investment

■ **Computer network:** Invest in national computer-based information network

■ **Shift R&D spending:** From defense to civilian

■ **Job training:** Boost spending on training and education programs



Health

■ **Medicare savings:** Limit payments to doctors and hospitals



Trade

■ **Trade agreement:** Sign North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and renew General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

SOURCE: Knight-Ridder national correspondent Robert A. Rankin

03/01/93

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African-American books reach roots

Students urged to read culture's works

TONY SEGNINI
Observer Assistant Arts Editor

As simple as reading and writing, so often taken for granted, were recently the subject of *Beyond the Dream V: The Writers, The Story, The Legacy*, a conference broadcast live via satellite from Washington, D.C., as part of Black History Month.

The program was presented as an open forum with a five-person panel consisting of African-American writers Terry McMillan, *Waiting To Exhale*; Charles Johnson, *Middle Passage*; Marita Golden, *And, Do Remember Me*; and Nikki Giovanni, *Sacred Cows... and Other Edibles* as well as literary critic Houston A. Baker Jr. The forum was moderated by Rennee Poussaint, WJLA-TV Washington, D.C.

The program emphasized the need for young African-Americans to read more African-American literature to help them identify with their roots.

"Blacks need to read more by black authors to gain better knowledge of their heritage and to move ahead in today's global society," Baker said.

Also noted was a universal need for absorption of important cultural and cross-cultural literature.

"Young people, both black and white, need to read more by both black and white authors," McMillan said.

"Writing is an art and should be read by all people to incite a reaction," Golden said. "Whether the reaction be anger or agreement, it has done its job."

Learning to identify: Getting young people in touch with African-American writers is sometimes a problem, panel members said. This is especially true for African-Americans attending predominantly white colleges with predominantly white teachers.

"More black teachers are needed at the predominantly white schools," Giovanni said. "This will not only help to better accommodate the black students, but will also create interest in other black teachers who would otherwise be overlooked."

"Emphasis needs to be placed on the students as well as the teachers," Golden said.

"Black students need to network with each other at white schools to help ease the feelings of isolation and reap as much as they can from the learning experience," she said.



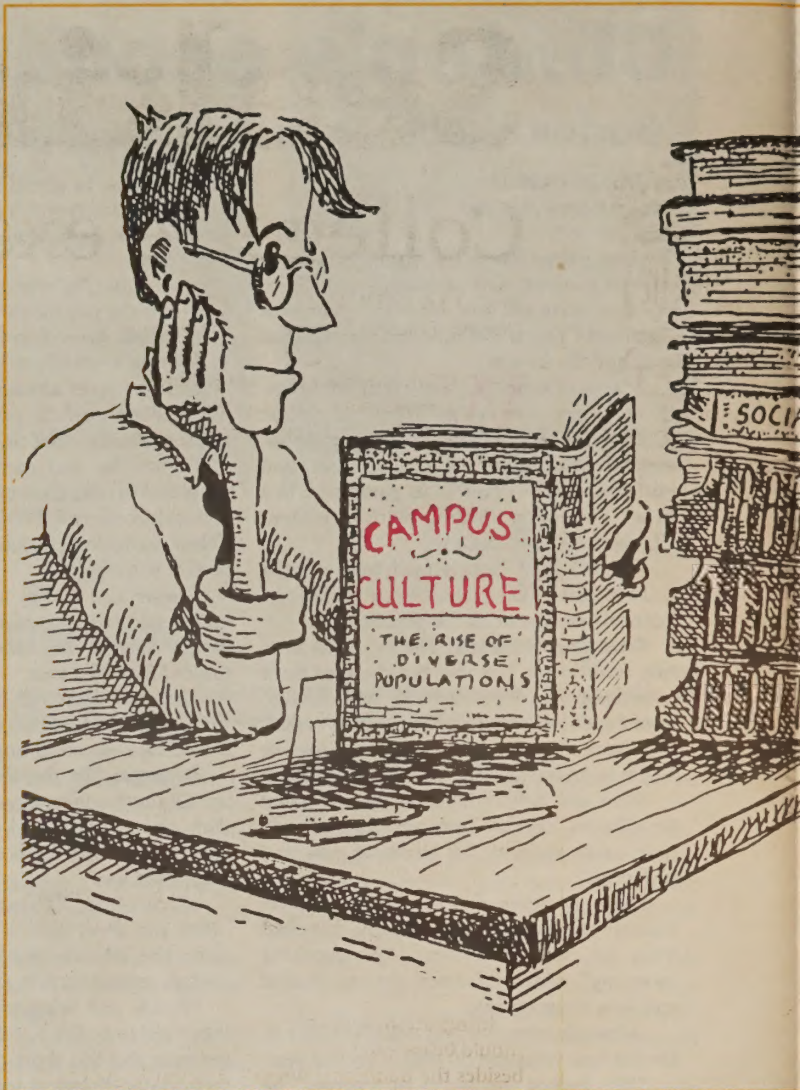
Black History Month

D. Fraser photo

THE NECC bookstore displays a variety of books focusing on African-American history.

Throughout history, African-American writers have had trouble gaining the mainstream acceptance that white writers have. They've had to rely on themselves to keep their writing alive. Their work has been viewed as not being compatible with audiences outside the African-American culture.

"Black writers have a long tradition of helping each other out," Golden said. "We know that their stories



are as universal as those of white writers." "Writing is about passion and compassion," McMillan said.

Respect: Brief profiles of poet Sonia Sanchez, writer Amiri Bakara of the black arts movement and detective/mystery writer Walter Mosely were also included in the program.

Mosely, who only started writing in the last few years has drawn attention from President Clinton for his emphasis on the lives of everyday African-American people in his stories.

He credits his writing to listening to storytellers in black neighborhoods where he lived.

"Storytellers are infectious," he said. "They make

you want to go out and tell it in."

Sponsored by the Cultural Office of Staff Development Office, the conference was received by NECC. It was community colleges and out the United States and

"Instead of having to send we can now bring the conference Judith Kamber, director of chairperson of the Cultural

The program closed with who appeared on last year's

'How close we've come' in struggle

Supreme Court Justice opposed oppression, fought for African-Americans' equal

By JENNIFER MARKARIAN
Observer Assistant Features Editor

Great grandson of a slave, son of a waiter and school mistress, Thurgood Marshall surpassed all expectations to become a towering figure in the civil rights movement.

Born July 2, 1908, Marshall grew up in a working class family and went to college at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, graduating in 1930. After being turned down at several white law schools, he went to Howard University Law School in Washington, an all African-American university. Marshall graduated at the top of his class in 1933 and then opened his own private

practice in Baltimore, Md.

In 1938, Marshall was nominated as chief counsel for the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), taking liberal stands on issues such as abortion, religion and the death penalty. He carried a heavy caseload and traveled around the country, defending minorities and the poor, at times risking his life.

Victory for many: While a lawyer for the NAACP, Marshall argued and won the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education*, which on May 17, 1954, overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine. One year later, the actual desegregation of schools began.

Marshall relied on the judicial system to bring about the political and social advancement of African-Americans. He eventually outlawed segregation in public parks, transportation, waiting rooms, luncheon counters and public buildings. He pointed out that law could shape the forces of society.

"He was out fighting for the people," said C.J. Armstrong, liberal arts student.

Marshall specialized in civil rights litigation and while working for the NAACP, argued 32 cases in front of the Supreme Court, winning 29.

"Changes in society come about through the power of laws....," said Arthur Barlas, NECC instructor of history and government. "He challenged society where it really counted.... He made the 14th Amendment a reality, which society ignored for years and years and years. Without him, this clause may still have been ignored. He forced people to take it seriously."

Advancement: In 1961, Marshall was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals and in 1965 was appointed by reluctant President John Fitzgerald Kennedy to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Later that year, on July 13, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Marshall Solicitor General of the United States.

Throughout all this advancement and nominations into government jobs "it took him out of the fraternity

of black lawyers and into a wider white world," said Juan Williams in the *Washington Post*.

After serving two years as Solicitor General, Marshall was nominated to the Supreme Court.

"He is the best qualified by training and by very valuable service to the country," Johnson said at the nomination. "I believe it is the right thing to do, the right time to do it and the right man and the right place."

On August 30, 1967, the senate confirmed the nomination. Marshall was the first African-American to sit on the high court.

"I felt there was no strong opposition," Barlas said. "By the '60s the world was changing."

"He was the country's lawyer," said Thomas A. Johnson, NAACP Lawrence branch president.

Toward the end of his 23 years as a Supreme Court Justice, he was asked what he would do when he retired. Marshall said sarcastically, "Sit on my rear end."

He wanted on his gravestone as the epitaph, "He did what he could with what he had."

Not long after, on Jan. 24, Marshall died at the age of 84.

"He had a long, wonderful, productive life," Barlas said. "He was truly an American figure with down-to-earth qualities. He had humility; Marshall never forgot where he came from."

Described as a "funeral fit for a king," Marshall's casket rested in the Supreme Court House on a bier that once held Lincoln's casket.

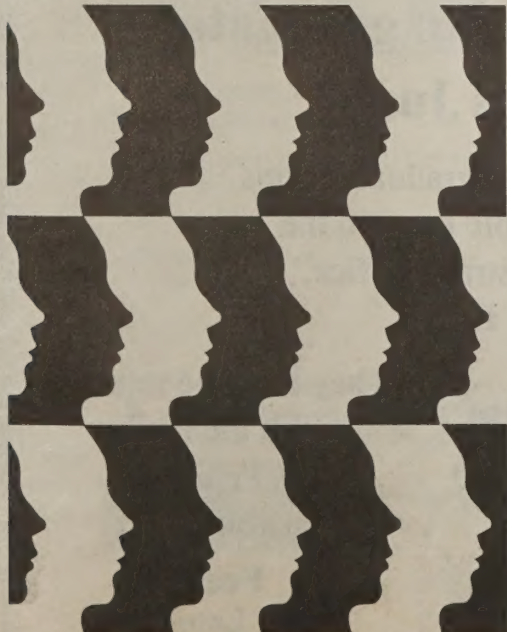
Singling praises: "Marshall was a genuine American; he believed in what he believed in, rights for all people," Johnson said. "He is an inspiration to all African-Americans in fields of law. It will be a long time before another Thurgood Marshall comes around - a man of his caliber."

Marshall, a man of change and of acceptance, strove to change society through its laws and succeeded. He left a stronger nation, hoping some day people of the world would live in peace with one another.



Civil rights he

BORN THE great grandson of a slave, Thurgood Marshall overcame his position of the pioneers to challenge segregation by overturning the "separate but equal" doctrine in 1954.



Seeking diversity

College re-examines course content

By JULIA FAIRCLOUGH
Observer Features Editor

With student ethnic diversity on the rise, the importance of offering more courses focusing on pluralism has increased, but so have enrollment obstacles.

"We need to begin to seriously look at the issues of diversity because we are a diverse campus," said Judith Kamber, director of staff development and chairperson of the Cultural Diversity/International Studies Committee.

Of the 6,952 students in the fall '92 semester, day and division of continuing education combined, 86 percent were white, 11 percent Hispanic, 9 percent African-American, 1.9 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, 0.3 percent American-Indian and 0.2 percent non-resident alien.

Kamber said the committee is responsible, in a broad manner, for looking at multi-cultural issues on campus as they affect programming and curriculum. It sponsors guest lecture series when faculty want to bring in a speaker on race and cultural awareness.

Also, the courses offered could improve cultural awareness and diversity, Kamber said. Faculty committee members make their own personal efforts to integrate materials focusing on minorities, if they want, but are not told what to teach.

Integration needed: For example, minority authors should be exposed to introduce students to something besides the traditional ones of Western-European descent, Kamber said.

"There are many great black authors that have not been read," she said. "We should offer people something they have not thought of in a positive light."

For a number of years, informal efforts have been made to increase exposure to minorities and women, said Priscilla Bellairs, chairperson, department of English.

The formal effort to introduce female authors stems from NECC's women studies concentration, which incorporates minority authors and issues, she said.

"There has never been a formal mandate that courses should be multi-culturally balanced," Bellairs said. "But we try to pay attention to make model authors representative of minorities in literature, and as a department chair, I encourage it and periodically broach the subject."

There have also been some changes in textbooks, which now incorporate half of their writing examples by women and minority authors, she said.

"The textbook situation has changed dramatically in the past few years," Bellairs said. "The English Composition I textbooks have made a lot of movement to use multi-cultural writers."

Catherine Sanderson, professor, department of English, said she tries to integrate minority authors. In her American Literature II class, she introduces two African-American authors.

Various obstacles: "Sometimes it's hard, because if you are using an anthology, you are limited," she said. "If you use textbooks it's even harder, but if you order individual texts, you can integrate diversity."

It should not be too difficult for those teaching literature courses to integrate diversity, she added. It's hard if one only touches on minority literature because the student may not benefit, however.

Last semester, Sanderson taught African-American Literature, which was more satisfying because in-depth study works better than a scant overview of just a couple of authors; however, the class was not offered this semester due to low enrollment.

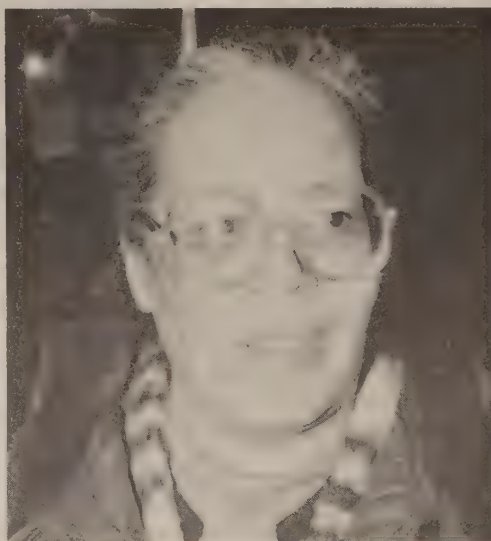
"We are hoping to make it a regular offering, but enrollment really draws which classes are elected or not," she said.

Last semester, she had a marginal enrollment of 12 students in her African-American Literature class, of which over half were white, two Hispanic and four African-American, she said.

"I hope the African-American Literature course becomes known, especially as more African-Americans enroll at school," Sanderson said.

One class, Literature of the Third World, resulted from a grant established by the Cultural Diversity/International Studies Committee. It allowed Eleanor Hope-McCarthy, professor, department of English, to study in India during the summer of 1990.

Recognition needed: "The grant allows teachers to study abroad to give them global awareness," she said. "We tend to ignore a large portion of the world, the Third World - India, Africa and Latin America, and think only of the Western traditions. We should get a sense of the whole other part of the world and its rich



D. Fraser photo

NILDA DIAZ said she makes the effort to sign up for courses concerning minority issues.

literature."

Western society has many things in common with other parts of the world, such as women's issues, that appear in literature. Americans' views can be challenged by the Third World as they see things from another perspective, she said. For example, students can question why industrialization is of primary value in the United States while attitudes toward the family are so important in India.

Expanding horizons: "How we view ourselves shoots at us and makes us revise by looking inside ourselves and at others," Hope-McCarthy said. "We have assumptions about Western society that need to be examined and we need to look at the Third World to deal with them."

Literature of the Third World was taught once, but due to an error of the course number's listing in the master schedule, no one enrolled in the course this semester, Bellairs said.

"If people can't find the course in the master schedule, we can't get them in it," she said. "Although it's true, however, that students do not automatically flock to minority courses, they tend to want to take American Literature courses."

Bellairs said this can be due to transfer considerations. Salem State College, for example, will only take American Literature and British Literature courses.

"We try to put the courses that promote cultural diversity in time slots we think are most convenient, and then we wait and see," she said.

Making an effort: Nilda Diaz, liberal arts/social services student, said she makes an effort to learn about different cultures, and would try to fit any courses into her schedule.

"I find cultural exploration very interesting, and right now I am taking Race and Ethnic Relations, which deals with minorities," she said.

Derrick Gardner, commercial arts student, said he thinks everyone should expose themselves to classes focusing on cultural issues to better understand other cultures and prevent prejudice.

"I try to go out of my way to take the courses that I want, regardless of when they meet," he said.

Peter Flynn, professor, department of behavioral sciences, who teaches Race and Ethnic Relations, said the class didn't run last semester due to low enrollment.

"Maybe it was because it was scheduled at a bad time, but this semester I encouraged students to take it and now I have 28 people in the class," he said.

The enrollment includes some African-Americans and Hispanics who make a positive contribution to the class, since they represent the diverse student body. Most are older students, and are there for a reason, he said. Through their life experiences they have "opened their eyes" and want to learn more about cultural diversity.

Other options: "Most students here want to get their basic core liberal arts requirements out of the way," Flynn said. "But what they do not realize is that these courses will fill the requirements and can be an alternative to Sociology I, for example. We have to push that fact constantly."

Gail Feigenbaum, assistant professor, early childhood education, and also a member of the Cultural Diversity/International Studies Committee, said diversity can fit into anyone's curriculum. She tries to introduce other cultures in her courses. Last semester, she called in a guest speaker, who held a three-hour

Time for change

"Most courses used to focus mainly on Western and masculine concerns," Hope-McCarthy said. "We need to balance the curriculum by learning about other parts of the world. These are important issues as the globe keeps changing and shrinking. We have assumptions about Western society that need to be examined and we need to look at the Third World to deal with them."

program on multi-cultural story telling.

"It gives us a sense of cultural diversity through the story telling because we heard stories told from all around the country," she said.

Through the guest lecturer program, cultural awareness can be developed by teachers who bring in representatives of other cultures as a teaching technique, she said.

"I try to be sensitive, because even in homogeneous classes, cultural diversity can be represented through ideas and materials," she said.

Of the 16 history courses offered, two are World Civilization courses and one is Minority Groups of America.

"It could be better, but it's still 18 percent of the history courses," Flynn said. "There is much more diversity in our curriculum from as much as five years ago. People have been doing a pretty good job, considering we're such a small school."

Reluctant to enroll: John Guarino, professor, department of history and government, said there are many reasons for the demand of Western-European-influenced history courses. First, Americans should know Western Civilization. Next, students seem to want Western Civilization in order to graduate. It's been difficult attracting them to history courses that introduce minorities.

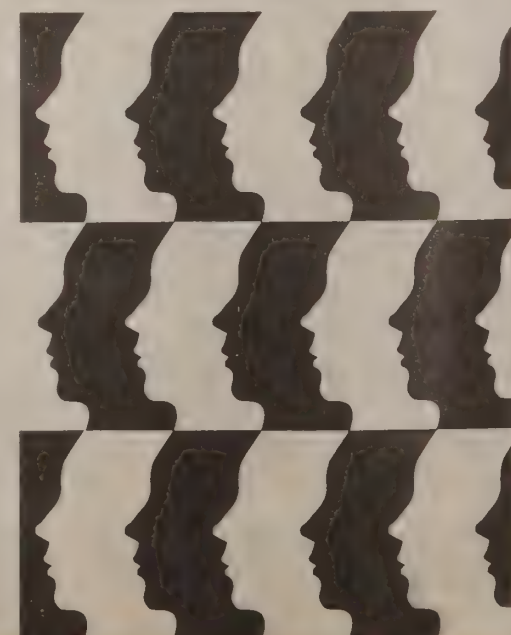
Introducing any new course into the curriculum is not a simple process, Flynn said.

"Many obstacles must be overcome to start a new course, and it's not like we say, 'Hey, let's start a new course,' and it's done," he said.

Much research into transferability, paperwork, texts and meetings are part of the process. Also, the concern of the new course threatening the enrollment for existing courses must be taken into consideration.

"We're continuing to pursue this," he said. "We have groups on campus pushing this."

"Most courses used to focus mainly on Western and masculine concerns," Hope-McCarthy said. "We need to balance the curriculum by learning about other parts of the world. These are important issues as the globe keeps changing and shrinking."



tell the story and not just take

Cultural Diversity Committee, ment, and the Student Activities was the first broadcast to be was also received by 74 other d over 200 locations through- and Canada. send students to conferences, onference to the student," said or of staff development and ural Diversity Committee.

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hero

File photo

ndson of a slave, Thurgood his prodigy, to become one change the injustice of turning the "separate but 954.

Life Long Learning program offers many events

The following Life Long Learning programs are scheduled for the rest of the semester:

Thursday, March 4, 2 p.m., A Year in Peru. After a year of living and working in Peru, Jane Thieffels describes it as a country full of beauty, mystery, history and contrasts. Thieffels, assistant professor, English language center, will share her slides, experiences and impressions.

Thursday March 11, 2 p.m., piano concert. Enjoy an afternoon of classical music. Katherine Chi, New England Conservatory artist diploma candidate, will interpret music by Chopin, Haydn and Godowski. Sponsored by NECC's Division of Humanities.

Thursday, March 18, 2 p.m., Victorian Eucalyptus Wreath Making. Learn how to make a beautiful Victorian eucalyptus wreath. Katja Lavallee will present this lecture/demonstration on the making of this craft. Lavallee will provide a list of supplies and will make a wreath during the presentation.

Thursday, March 25, 2 p.m., movie: *The Life and Death of Frida Kahlo*. Celebrating National Women's History Month, learn about the life of one of Mexico's outstanding artists, Frida Kahlo. During her lifetime, Kahlo was best known as the wife of the muralist Diego Rivera. This movie will show her contribution to the art world. The movie will be shown in room E-155.

April

Thursday, April 1, 2 p.m., lecture: *Investing During Retirement*. This lecture is specifically designed for the needs of the already retired individual. Carol Neville, certified financial planner and registered investment adviser, will cover investment basics, financial options and strategies for after retirement.

Thursday, April 8, 2 p.m., lecture: *Will Russia Survive?* How has Russia changed since the fall of Gorbachev? Will democracy and free market succeed in supplanting communism? How are ordinary Russians dealing with the changes taking place in their society?

Elizabeth Wilcoxson, chairperson, department of history and government, will explore these questions in the light of Russia's historical and cultural traditions. Wilcoxson has made 10 trips to Russia. The most recent one, in the summer of 92, was a program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Thursday, April 13, 2 p.m., Tai Chi study group begins.

Thursday, April 15, 2 p.m., *At Home With Style: An Interior Design Workshop*. Learn the basic skills to create a beautiful and personal interior. Wendy Gaffner-Smith, interior designer, will present a variety of decorating styles as well as fabric and color demonstrations. She will refer to the psychology of color and elements of design that will help you select your own decorating style.

Thursday, April 22, 2 p.m., lecture: *African American Literature*. Catherine Sanderson, professor, department of English, will examine the various types of African American literature. From early slave narratives and early novels to protest novels of the civil rights era, more and more recent novels and poetry that celebrate black culture.

Thursday, April 29, 2 p.m., Still Point Dance Company performance. Still Point Dance Company will present a program of inventive choreographies and talented dancers. Under the direction of Elaine Mawhinney, the company will perform works by Boston choreographers as well as its own creations. The performance will take place in the gymnasium.

May

Thursday, May 6, 2 p.m., *Writing Over 60*. Celebrate Older Americans month with Donald Murray, writer of the column "Over 60" in the *Boston Globe*. Murray will refer to his column and also how writing fiction and poetry is both therapy and celebration for him. He will suggest how over 60s can take advantage of this activity.



Bevy of activities

File photo

KATJA LAVALLEE will give lecture this month as part of the Life Long Learning program's upcoming projects.

Thursday, May 13, 1 p.m., Life Long Learning spring party (off-campus). Join us to celebrate Older American's Month and the end of a fruitful semester. Don't miss this fabulous party at Christopher's Restaurant, 85 Water St., Haverhill. Tunes from the 40s and 50s will be performed by Chandler Noyes. Tickets in advance required before May 7. Tickets are \$7 and include lunch and entertainment.

Trips

All trips depart from NECC, Haverhill and will stop in Lawrence if requested.

Tuesday, March 9, New England spring flower show *Through the Garden Gate*, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Reservation deadline: Feb. 24. Fee: \$21 (includes coach bus and ticket).

Wednesday, May 5, Merrimack Repertory Theater, Lowell, *Amadeus*, by Peter Schaffer. Tony Award Winning "Best Play of the Year," this grand spectacle celebrates the musical genius of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. A theatrical wonder set in the century court of Austrian emperor Joseph II. Reservation deadline, April 14.

Bus departs 12:15 p.m., returns 5 p.m. Fee, \$26 (includes coach bus and theater ticket). Monday, May 24, Washington, D.C., four days, \$349. Join this comprehensive tour of Washington, D.C. You'll visit the White House, Capitol Building, Arlington Memorial Cemetery, Smithsonian Institute and will also enjoy a night-light sight-seeing of monuments and memorials.

Next November, go to two theater performances in London! Enjoy world-renown entertainment with extra time for optional tours of Buckingham palace, The Tower of London, Big Ben, Windsor Castle and Hampton Court Palace. Six days/four nights, price to be confirmed (approximately \$790).

For more information on trips, call Mary DiPietro.

Lawrence campus

March 23, 1 p.m., Life Long Learning kick off party. Don't miss this party that marks the beginning of the activities in the Lawrence campus.

Visit NECC's new facilities in Lawrence, meet old and new friends, give us your input about possible programs in Lawrence and enjoy refreshments. Musical entertainment by Patty Carpenter-jazz, swing and show tunes.

Workshop: *Women's Financial Information* program co-sponsored by the AARP. Every Tuesday, April 13 to May 25, 12:30-3:30 p.m., room 244. Registration in advance required. Fee, \$10.

Topics: Record keeping and goal setting, building financial security, designing a cash flow system, women and insurance, social security, pension issues and housing options, investments, taxes, inflation, and savings alternatives, wills, probate and other legal matters. Make check payable to Life Long Learning. For more information, call 374-3688.

Herbs

Are herbs an interest of yours? Cultivate that interest by joining the Merrimack Valley Herb Society. This lively group has planned and planted fragrant Lavender-hued herb garden in the college quadrangle. They go on day herbal safaris, exchange information and welcome new members. Dues are \$5 annually.

Study Group: Tai Chi Chuan. Under the leadership of Mary Wilkie, this group will explore the basic movements and history of this gentle Chinese martial art form. The practice of Tai Chi improves the flexibility of people of all ages. Elements of Yoga and meditation will be presented as well.

Limited to 10. Registration in advance will be required. Tuesdays, April 13, 20 and 27 from 10 to 11a.m. Library Conference Area C.

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Kathy Breshnahan, Transfer Counselor, Bradford College,
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Crime Log

Wednesday, Feb. 17 -

A complaint was filed to campus security over a confrontation in the parking lot. A student

claims she watched another student open her car door and hit her vehicle. After asking her to be more careful, she said she was verbally attacked, and her car was hit again.

Thursday, Feb. 18 - Multiple situations of harassment and mortal threats were reported. The victim alleges a male student, who was tutoring her, became infatuated with her and couldn't deal with the fact she was seeing somebody else. She was advised to file an official complaint.

Friday, Feb. 19 - A Papa Gino's banner was stolen Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and Friday at 10 a.m.

Paid advertisement Paid advertisement

On March 4-5 many of you will go to vote for candidates to occupy seats in the student senate. When you vote, think of the candidate who is concerned about the Students' opinions, not only the Business Majors, but Students of all majors so that we can achieve the goal of Student Government. *Bob Bakalyar believes this goal is TEAMWORK!*

Bakalyar

Business - Area 3
Student Senate

Moving to New England

Former USC instructor finds new home at NECC

By JENNIFER MARKARIAN
Observer Assistant Features Editor

To some, English may be a dreaded subject. To Barbara Stachniewicz, new full time English instructor, it is a challenge to help students overcome their fears and find their own voice in the writing process.

Stachniewicz has worked at NECC part-time for a year and a half and recently was hired as a full-timer for the spring semester.

"I thought it would be part-time until I got my Ph.D., I fell in love with it, the students ... I discovered there was great work being done at a community college," Stachniewicz said. "I love my job!"

Stachniewicz lived and taught English in California at the University of Southern California for five years.

Former position: "I taught composition and I liked it quite a lot," she said. "We worked on a computer and steps on the process of writing."

Stachniewicz grew up in Pennsylvania and realized that as soon as she finished her courses in California, she would be leaving there also. She received a dissertation fellowship which enabled her to move to a city with a good library and decided upon Boston where her brother lived. At first, it was a temporary move; however, it has now become permanent.

"I guess you could say right now moving could be a hobby," she said. "I'm moving north, someplace closer to school. I'll wait until the end of summer because none of my friends want to help me move in the snow."

She grew up in a close-knit family "who read a lot and we are all in the academic field as a result," she said. "I have two nieces, 2 1/2-year-old twins, Catherine and Rebecca, who started to read the day they were born. Their first muscle motion was turning pages of a book. I want them to read and enjoy literature."

Athletic buff: As hobbies, Stachniewicz reads all the time and she used to run, but "winters here make that impossible. I used to run all the time and swim, but New England put an end to that," she said.

She also enjoys going to the theater and plans on seeing *Guys and Dolls* at the end of March.

"I never wanted to be anything else but an English professor by teaching English and writing," she said. "It enables me to help students find their own voice, so they can become better participants. I love English, the language and the way it works."

She said she enjoys teaching adults because she wants to get to students before they decide they hate writing. She has seen that high school and junior high students need too much discipline. Her mother works as a junior high teacher and spends more time disciplining than teaching.

"When you teach college students, you have an older crowd who have lives, so there is subject matter there," Stachniewicz said.

There is a big difference between working part-time and working as a full-time instructor, she said.

Better opportunities: "Being here full-time allows me to do work with curriculum, and it gives me a chance to say what goes on in the department," she said. "It's important to keep students in school once they get here and being full-time helps me to do that."

She wants the students to leave her classes with the sense that they have their own voice, that they have something to say and that they know how to say it.

"I want them to be enthused about the process of writing," she said.

Stachniewicz likes to see the attitudes of her students change from having to be there to wanting to be there.

"I like to get them excited," she said. "By the end of the semester you can see the change."



Language lover

D. Fraser photo

BARBARA STACHNIEWICZ comes aboard full-time.

Stachniewicz's advice to all students is not to expect writing to be easy.

"Write, rewrite and revise," she said. "Nobody can sit down and produce perfect papers. Don't ever be afraid to ask questions. Students should be able to say what's on their minds, and teachers are willing to listen."

Psychology teacher encourages growth

By JENNIFER MARKARIAN
Observer Assistant Features Editor

A breath of fresh air has swept into NECC this semester leaving in its wake new perspectives and a different attitude.

Eduardo Ruiz, a native of Puerto Rico, was hired as a full-time psychology professor. He came to Massachusetts to obtain his doctorate in psychology. While in school, he worked in Lawrence with young adults to help pay his tuition. Before coming to Massachusetts, Ruiz received his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Puerto Rico, and taught while working on his master's.

"I started my real career at the Catholic University of Puerto Rico," Ruiz said.

Hit or miss: He worked as a psychology professor there for 10 years. After leaving Puerto Rico and working in Lawrence, he eventually applied for a position that opened up at NECC. One hundred and twelve applied, six were interviewed and Ruiz was one of two chosen.

"I just tried ... I said let's just see what happens," Ruiz said.

Another reason for his application was that he knew some of the students taking classes here and thought it would be great to work with them on another level.

"I decided to work with college-age students because they are more challenging," he said. "They already have a background and can use their ideas to come up with something new. They provide a challenging and intellectual environment. I want my students to develop a hunger for knowledge, to not stop learning after class, broaden their horizons and never stop. Learning is a never-ending process."

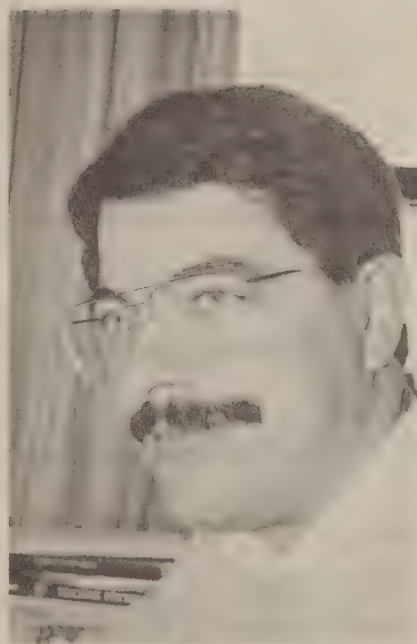
Aspiration: As a child, Ruiz was interested in "why people did what they were doing."

He enjoyed Freud and Erick Fromm, but as he grew academically, he shifted his interests to others in the field. He was still intrigued by Fromm, but remembered little of Freud.

Ruiz feels that he has a lot to offer NECC. "I feel that I can expose my colleagues and students to another perspective, to see the world in a different way," Ruiz said.

He explained that university is derived from the Latin word, "universitas," meaning whole.

Introspective: "Going to a university makes students unique," Ruiz said. "It gives the student the opportunity to get in touch



Latest addition

D. Fraser photo

EDUARDO RUIZ, the newest asset to the behavioral science department.

with the world and see things from a different point of view."

He hopes to expose the students to another view or way of life.

He lives in New Hampshire with his wife, whom he met while studying at the University of Puerto Rico.

"She understands that teaching is my passion," Ruiz said.

Hobbies: Ruiz is an avid skier and diver. While in Puerto Rico, he used to dive every day "just to enjoy and have the pleasure of being underneath."

He dove about 300 times a year for five years and saw a shark on four different occasions. His other hobby is being a radio amateur or being involved in Ham Radio, where a person can communicate with countries worldwide with the right equipment.

"Mr. Ruiz has a strong psychology background and strong experience in teaching and educational program development," said Robert MacDonald, dean of academic affairs. "He will be a valued addition to our Division of Social Sciences."

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'Groundhog Day' hits comic mark

Murray comes back with big laughs as weatherman reliving his worst day

By PENNY A. STARKS
Observer Arts & Entertainment Editor

Weatherman Phil Connors hates Groundhog Day. Each year he dreads the moment when he must return to Punxsutawney, Penn. to see Phil, the famous groundhog, exit his home in search of his shadow. This Feb. 2, his worst nightmare comes true.

Connors, played by Bill Murray (*Ghostbusters*, *What About Bob?*), finds himself forced to remain in Punxsutawney for an extra day due to a snowstorm, one that, he reluctantly admits, he failed to forecast. Unhappy with the situation, he goes to bed early, hoping to flee the town tomorrow. Tomorrow never comes.

In this new comedy, *Groundhog Day*, Connors gets to relive his favorite day over and over again. Each day he awakens to that unforgettable, but probably better forgotten, tune, *I Got You Babe*, by Sonny and Cher, hoping for a new day.

Freedom: Egomaniac Connors has eternity to get it right. After the initial shock, he realizes he can do anything he wants. He crashes cars, meets women, eats like a pig and says everything he ever wanted to say.

After boredom sets in, Connors decides the time has come to end this bizarre occurrence. He kills himself a few times. He leaps in front of cars, off buildings and drives a truck over the edge of a cliff. It doesn't work, though. The next day he wakes up in bed, of course, to *I Got You Babe* playing on his clock radio.

Throughout each day, Connors begins to fall in love with his producer, Rita Hanson, played by Andie MacDowell (*sex, lies and videotape*, *Green Card*). She too develops feelings for Connors, though, at the end of each day they part and do it all over again the next.

Big changes: This film seems somewhat similar to the old classic, Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Connors needs to turn over a new leaf for the day to end, and his metamorphosis



Love at first sight

LONG-TIME COMIC actor Bill Murray stars with Andie MacDowell in the romantic comedy, *Groundhog Day*.

Photo courtesy of Allied Advertising Agency

Film Review

from selfish jerk to generous man carries the audience over a wildly funny set of events.

Murray, once again, proves his success with comedy. His characteristic facial expressions and voice bring the film to life. This

movie is his funniest in a long time.

No good: On the other hand, MacDowell proves the only reason she ever gets cast in a film is her beauty. Her stiff movements and voice, which sounds as though her lines are being read off a card, fail to offer credibility to her part. The film works, however, as Murray

is the main focus.

Finally, writers have strayed from the slapstick comedy that lacks a storyline and has given viewers a piece of humor with substance. Don't go looking for a *Loaded Weapon* or *Naked Gun* here. This movie truly possesses hilarious comedy with direction.

Video releases focus on women characters

By PENNY A. STARKS
Observer Arts & Entertainment Editor

March marks Women's History Month. In celebration, a few good movies are in order.

For many decades, women have been portrayed in film as weak leeches incapable of succeeding without the help of men. Last year's hit, *Thelma & Louise*, helped to dispel the stereotype by offering the public a good film with a couple of women rebels.

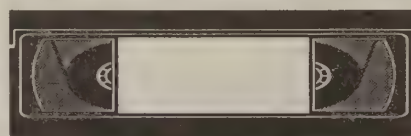
Locating videos with women as strong central characters may seem easy. All too frequently if a movie has a strong woman, she receives the image of a rude, pushy liberator. These two films, *Gorillas in the Mist* and *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* offer power-

ful women in more positive roles.

Gorillas in the Mist: A popular 1989 film, this movie disappeared into obscurity rather quickly. Sigourney Weaver's fabulous performance brings to life the true story of the anthropologist, Dian Fossey.

Fossey travels to Africa to study the endangered mountain gorilla. Falling deeply in love with these animals and her work, she becomes engrossed in her project. Struggling to save these intelligent beasts puts her life in grave danger.

She spends hours each day studying these animals and documenting their behavior. As no person before her, Fossey comes close to these gorillas by mimicking their sounds and actually invading their habitat until they be-



Vintage Video

gin to trust her.

In opposition to her work, poachers and animal traders seek these gorillas for income and don't appreciate Fossey's attempts to save them. As her obsession grows, her erratic behavior eventually costs her life.

Weaver's performance carries the audience to an understanding of the love and joy Fossey experienced in the company of her subjects. Poachers eventually kill some of her gorillas and the emotional pain expressed by Weaver is fantastic.

Fossey dedicated her life to the mountain gorillas and ignored the opportunity to pursue a relationship with a photographer. When he offers her an ultimatum, she chooses herself and her career.

The PG-13 film lasts for two hours and nine minutes. Lush mountain scenery abounds throughout, and the intense struggle between Fossey and the opposition compels the film. The life of this strong independent woman interests and attracts, and Weaver's exceptional performance makes it believable.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings: Based on the novel by Maya Angelou, this film showcases the triumphs of one little girl over oppression and exploitation. Maya, played by Constance Good, has a hard life. Living with her grandmother in a severely racist town in Arkansas during the Depression, she works hard in school and at home.

Abandoned by her parents at a young age, she and her brother Bailey Jr., played by John M. Driver II, were sent to live with their

paternal grandmother, played by Esther Rolle. Their life, though difficult, contains love and a sense of security, until one day, when the father they did not know existed, returns to take them back.

Although Maya would rather stay with her grandmother, she agrees to undertake the journey. They head to St. Louis to meet their real mother, where the children stay.

During this time, Maya is sexually assaulted.

In the aftermath, she retreats into a world of silence. Unable to care for her children, their mother once again sends them to live with their grandmother.

Through the careful guidance and understanding of Maya's grandmother and school teacher, she eventually speaks again. At her graduation, during her valedictory speech, she raises her voice in a message of pride.

This 1979 movie possesses a moving storyline, but some of the children's performances fail to stand up to the quality of the adults'. The thoughts and messages are clear, regardless.

The film lasts 96 minutes and displays a young woman succeeding despite men, rather than with the help of a man.

Bad rap

Locating videos with women as strong central characters may seem easy. All too frequently if a movie has a strong woman, she receives the image of a rude, pushy liberator.

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Hard work

Theater competition draws local students

By PENNY A. STARKS
Observer Arts & Entertainment Editor

Six NECC students recently competed for scholarship money at the American College Theater Festival. The competition for the Irene Ryan Scholarship, worth \$2,000, took place at the Plymouth State College's Silver Cultural Arts Center.

Frank Smith, Ron Asadorian and Amy Anderson were nominated by judges who attended various NECC productions throughout 1992. The nominees chose partners, Chris Desario, Dawn Smith and George Forte, respectively, and had to prepare one scene and one monologue that did not exceed five minutes combined.

Difficult opponents: The competition was stiff and although the students did not win, they garnered some valuable lessons.

"I'm happy with what I did and I received some good feedback," Frank Smith said. "I should have made it to the finals, but I'm fairly arrogant."

Smith feels the regional winners deserved the honor, but was somewhat disappointed.

All students also participated in a series of workshops and viewed a variety of plays. Forte particularly enjoyed the *How to Survive Cold Readings* workshop, given by Ingrid Sonnichsen.

Learning experience: "The cold reading workshop alone was worth the two-hour ride," Forte said. "The plays were great, too."

Sonnichsen offered participants tips when an audition requires an actor to read something for the first time.

She told them how to get focused, Forte said.

Although Forte felt good about his performance, he realized they didn't achieve their potential.

"We did all right," Forte said. "We could have done better; the competition was stiff."

He too suffered disappointment at first, but then went on to enjoy the other performances.

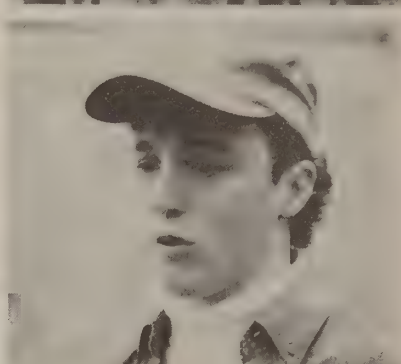
Return trip: Dawn Smith, second-time festival participant, also appreciated the workshops and learned a great deal. She



Scholarship attempt

THEATER STUDENTS George Forte and Frank Smith, above, attended a theater festival where other colleges displayed costumes, above right, and Forte speaks of his performance, right.

D. Fraser photos



attended the *How to be a Working Actor* workshop by Marilyn Henry, former casting director for ABC daytime television.

"That workshop was great," Smith said. "She went over important parts of first impressions, headshots and resumes."

Dawn Smith was happy with her performance, but knows where their presentation went wrong.

Important feedback: "We did well, but it was rushed," she said. "That's exactly what the judges said, too."

Dawn Smith hopes to return to the festival next year as a nominee, but feels as long as she performs well in the campus plays, that's all that matters.

The arts center presented many costume displays from

other colleges. Middlebury College had its costumes from its production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* on display, as well as an exhibit from the University of New Hampshire.

Plays from nominated schools were also in competition. Salem State College brought a student-written production, *Filthy Innards*, to the festival. All the NECC students who had the opportunity to see this play enjoyed it.

"I'd love to bring a play there," Frank Smith said. "We have a small theater department, but it's possible."

Smith felt the quality of the this year's plays was not as good as last year's, but hopes to return to compete again in the near future.

Infectious Grooves spreads its disease

Second album from Suicidal Tendencies' offspring band delivers powerful new sound

By DON TAHAN
Observer Assistant Arts Editor

Music Review

Straight from the bowels of thrash, heavy-metal and alternative music erupts a band that transcends the stereotypical sounds of the '90s.

Infectious Grooves is back with its second release, *Sarssipius' Ark*. A follow-up from its first album, *Infectious Grooves*, *Sarssipius' Ark* is a rehash of the same comical, heavy alternative music the band played on its first album.

Singer Mark Muir and bassist Robert Trujillo, who are also members of Suicidal Tendencies, take command of the lyrics and music on the album. Incorporated in the songs are many humorous segments and that ever-powerful surge heard in Suicidal Tendencies' music for the last decade.

Back again: Sarssipius is a super funky

character Muir and Trujillo created on the last album. He pops up periodically on the album preaching his love for disco and funk. Although a minor aspect of the album, he does deliver some unique humor that'll either keep listeners happy, or drive them to drink.

Musically speaking, Infectious Grooves is a square meal to the connoisseurs of Muir's singing and Trujillo's ripping bass. Dean Pleasants and Adam Siegal provide the rhythm and lead guitars capable of gnawing through speakers like a hungry rat in a cage.

Drummer Josh Freeze engages in an all-out war on his drums and cymbals enabling the power of the music to reach a new plane. Think twice before increasing the volume

while listening to this album. It may result in an audio meltdown.

Sarssipius' Ark is a full-length album with 19 songs in all; however, all of the titles listed as separate songs are not full-length. A total of six of the alleged songs are small introductions narrated by Sarssipius himself, leaving only 13 songs that last over one minute.

Old greats: Interestingly enough, the album contains cover songs: *The Immigrant Song* by Led Zeppelin, and *Fame* by David Bowie and John Lennon. It also contains two live tracks from their first album: *Infectious Grooves* and *Do the Sinister*, giving the album more diversity than a studio release.

Sarssipius' Ark landed in stores on Feb. 16. The group is touring with Suicidal Tendencies (what a coincidence) and is scheduled to perform at the Channel in Boston on March 19.



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Get involved in the Earth Day Celebration! Thursday, April 22

We need your ideas - help - participation!

Come to the Student Activities Office (F-133)
Haverhill campus to find out how you can be Involved!





Arts scene

comes to life in Valley with acts like Greg Greenway appearing at Haverhill's New Moon Coffeehouse

By MARY HARRINGTON
Observer Staff Reporter

Local entertainment abounds, sparing the trip to Boston and the added expenses of parking, bridge tolls and inflated prices, let alone the traffic. With February out of the way and spring just around the corner, students not only want to go out for a night on the town, some feel they must; cabin fever strikes again.

New Moon Coffeehouse: "Bill Clinton would really like the place," said Carol Allen of New Moon Coffeehouse.

Acoustic music, in its largest definition, is performed in the meeting room of the Universalist-Unitarian Church in Monument Square, Haverhill. Blues, ethnic, Appalachian, New Age, classical, bluegrass, folk and country musicians have found their way north of Boston to perform in front of welcoming audiences.

Allen has booked the acts since the New Moon Coffeehouse started five years ago, and chooses performers through personal taste and a sense of balance of the upcoming season.

"Each year is a creative undertaking," Allen said. "The groups, duos and soloists chosen depend on the diversity of our season and the requests of the audience."

She said she receives a lot of tapes through promotional packs, but prefers to have heard the artists in person before hiring them.

Prior to the show, the meeting room is rearranged into a concert hall by a staff of 10 volunteers. They set the stage beneath a row of stained glass windows, and place chairs to accommodate 220 people. Food and beverage are served in the adjoining room, and include coffee, tea, natural sodas, hot cider, chocolate cake, banana bars, cheese and crackers and fruit.

The New Moon Coffeehouse is smoke-free, and provides free parking on Ashland Street. While the meeting room is accessible to the disabled, the rest rooms are not.

Ticket prices range from \$7 to \$10, and go on sale at 6:30 p.m. the night of the show, or can be purchased at the previous concert. The door opens at 7:30 p.m., and all regular New Moon shows start at 8 p.m.

Greg Greenway and Martin Sexton, two fast-rising stars of Boston, are the featured performers slated for the next Coffeehouse on March 19. Tickets are \$8.

Greenway, a dynamic performer whose new CD, *A Road Worth Walking*, is heard on Boston radio stations. Sexton is creative, and a recent finalist in the Great Woods Singer/Songwriter Contest.

Upcoming attractions include Carla Sciaky from Colorado, April 16; Judy Small from Australia, May 14; and Priscilla Herdman, June 11.

The New Moon Coffeehouse is located at 15 Kenzo Ave., Haverhill. For more information, call 372-5173 or 373-9259.

Screening Room: "A bargain at twice the price," said Andrew Mungo, Screening Room proprietor.

The Screening Room in Newburyport is a funky little cinema with mismatched chairs and the feel of an old theatre. Within the smoke-free environment, food and drink are sold, from the usual popcorn and soda to pastries and herbal teas. Prices range from 65 cents to \$2.25.

The proprietors keep a constant file of current movies and their reviews listed in the *Boston Globe* and the *New York Times*. When a movie of critical acclaim becomes available, and the price is right, it is rented. Movies usually change each Monday, and are run shortly after opening in Boston. Something of special interest to keep an eye open for is the semi-annual Animation Festival.

Admission is \$4.50 and \$2.25 for senior citizens and children. A schedule is published monthly with an in-depth review of each movie, or call for a recorded message listing current and future showings. The facilities are accessible to the disabled.

Screening Room is located at 82 State St., Newburyport. For more information, call 462-FILM.

Stage Two Cinema Pub: "Plenty of bargains," said Bill Hafler of Stage Two Cinema Pub.

The Pub is located downtown in the former playhouse. Located on the third floor of a triple-decker, there is no access for the disabled, nor is it completely smoke-free. It runs fairly current movies, mostly comedies and dramas, and the ratings are typically PG-13 or R.

The theater opens at 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, and the movie runs at 7 p.m. A second show starts at 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. General admission is \$3.50, but bargain nights are offered at \$2. Wednesday is ladies' night, Thursday is men's night and Sunday is kid's night.

The pub style menu, ranging from \$2.50 to \$5, offers pizza, burgers, and nachos, as well as salads and some lighter fare. Beer and wine is available to those of drinking age.

Stage Two Cinema Pub is located at 109 Main St., Amesbury. For more information, call 388-655.

Joseph's Winter Street Cafe: "It's a fun place to come and certainly everyone is welcomed," said Claudia Hull.

Joseph's Winter Street Cafe offers a more upscale atmosphere, featuring free live jazz in the intimate dining room each Sunday from 2:30 to 6 p.m. Local musician Bill Plante and his group usually anchor the sets, with other musicians and vocalists invited to sit in.

A full menu is offered, but an assortment of appetizers, including seafood, paté and salads, is more affordable at \$1.95 to \$6. Non-alcoholic beer, mineral water, juice and alcohol are available, and no minimum purchase is required to attend.

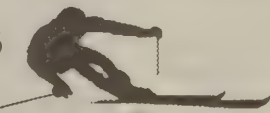
Smoking is permitted, and access for the disabled is difficult.

Joseph's Winter Street Cafe is located at 22 Winter St., Newburyport. For more information, call 462-1188.

Local entertainment

The Screening Room in Newburyport is a funky little cinema with mismatched chairs and the feel of an old theatre. Within the smoke-free environment, food and drink are sold, from the usual popcorn and soda to pastries and herbal teas.

SKIERS! Don't Miss This One!



March 19 - 21 Weekend Ski Trip to

Smugglers Notch

Sign up and Pay in
Student Activities
F133, Student Center

\$140

(what a deal!)

- Includes 2 Nights Slopeside Condo Lodging
- Motor Coach Transportation
- 2 Days Skiing on 3 Big Mountains
- Slopeside BBQ with Burgers and Hotdogs
- Saturday Night Awards Ceremony with Free SONY CD's and Cassettes for All
- Friday Welcome Party
- Live Bands and Other Entertainment
- Use of Indoor Pool, Sauna and Hot tub



The conditions have never been better!

Arts Scene

Campus events

Auditions for the theater department's Series of One-Act Plays takes place March 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Top Notch Theater in C-Building. Students will be asked to read scripts at the theater or can prepare a two-minute monologue. For more information, call Susan Sanders at 374-5865.

Student Activities will sponsor Vic Cottengim in the Student Center's tiled lounge on March 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cottengim performs a wide range of music on guitar by the Black Crowes, The Who, R.E.M., as well as originals.

Also in the tiled lounge on March 15, The Stand Up Comedy Cafe's Larry Myles

will perform from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Local events

Phillips Academy will sponsor the oratorio, *Israel in Egypt*, by George Frideric Handel on March 5 at 7 p.m. in the Cochran Chapel. The piece will be performed by the Academy Cantata Choir and Chamber Orchestra.

Susan Sanders, NECC theater coordinator, will perform in the Rupert Holmes play, *Accomplice*, on March 5, 6, 7, 12 and 13. Directed by J. Christopher Martin, the Quannapowitt Players will perform the play at 55 Hopkins St. in Reading, on Friday and Saturday nights at 8:15 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m.

The murder mystery thriller featuring four characters, takes place in England in the 1970s. For more information, call 942-2212.

UMass/Lowell will sponsor the *Ballet Folcloric Nacional de Mexico* on Friday, March

5, at 8 p.m. Representative of the Mexican government as its principal cultural ambassador, this show features Mexico's folk dance and musical heritage. With dazzling costumes, the troupe performs wild pieces to the music of marimbas, trumpets and guitars.

Early arrivers can attend a free informative preview given by a company member at 7:30 p.m. in Durgin Hall, where the performance also takes place.

Ticket prices range from \$19, \$21 and \$23 for the general public and \$9.50, \$10.50 and \$11.50 for students. For more information, call 934-4444 weekdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

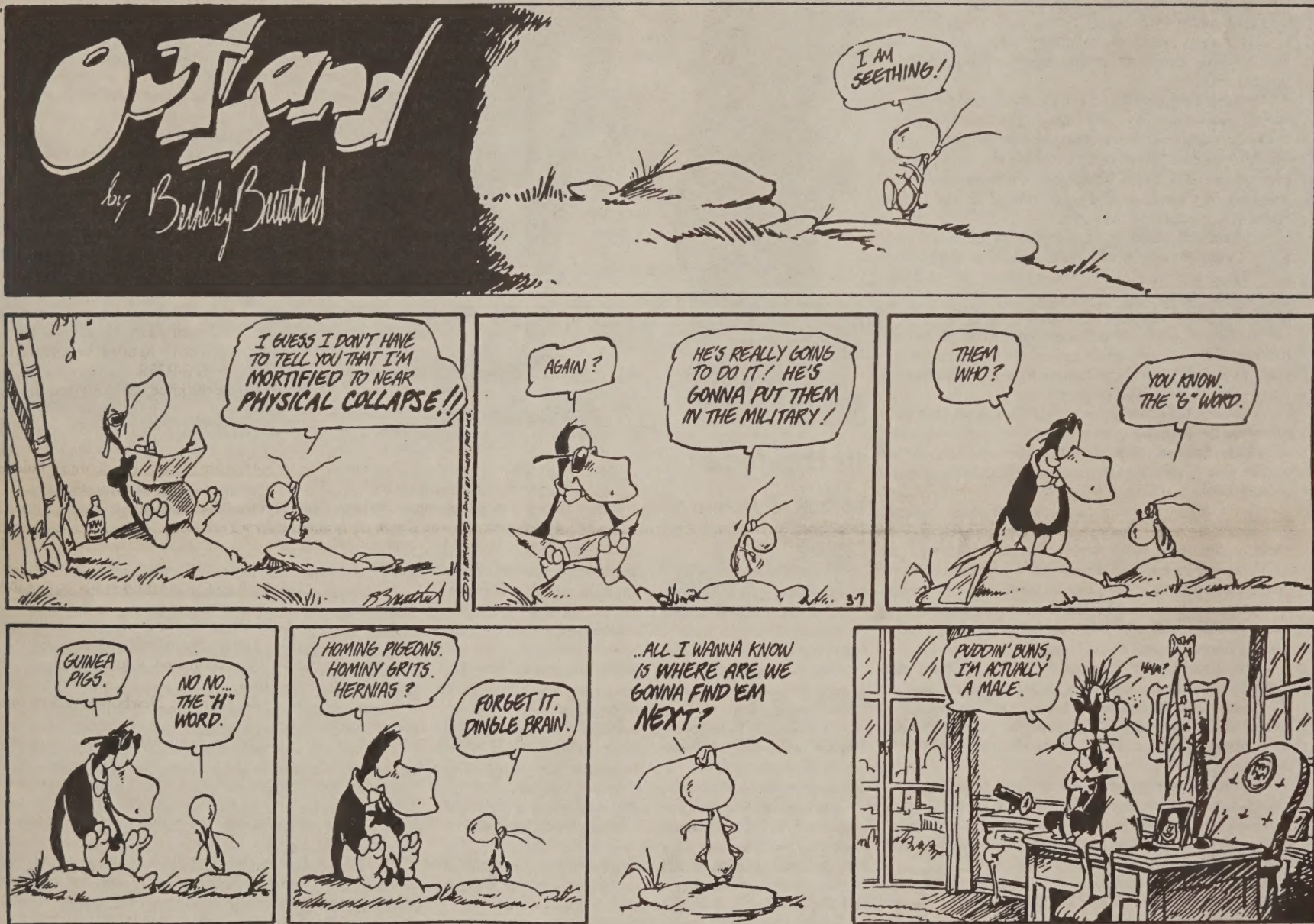
Also at UMass/Lowell on Sunday, March 7, at 7 p.m. pianist Frederick Moyer will present a Rachmaninoff Commemorative Concert. Tickets are \$12 or \$10 for the general public and \$6 for students.

Boston events

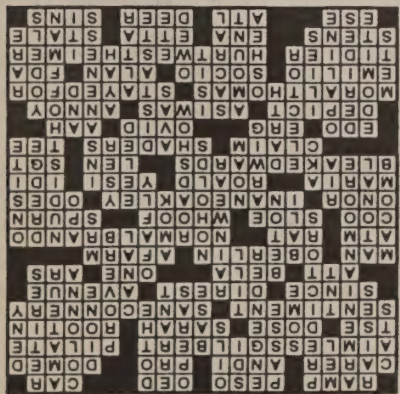
The American Repertory Theater will present Harold Pinter's play *The Caretaker*. The show combines theater of the grotesque with naturalistic drama and adds black comedy. Performances begin on March 17 for a two-week run. For more information, call the American Repertory Theater at (617) 547-8300.

Women's History Month is highlighted at the Berklee College of Music with a performance by jazz revolutionary Joanne Brackeen on March 10 at 8:30 p.m. in the Berklee Performance Center.

Brackeen, one of America's foremost women jazz composers, has worked with legends such as Art Blakey, Stan Goetz, Joe Henderson and Dexter Gordon. For more information, call the box office at (617) 262-4998.



Established in 1833, OBERLIN (43 Across) was the first coeducational college in the United States. Norwegian explorer ROALD AMUNDSEN (70 Across) led the first successful expedition to the South Pole in 1911. CHARLIE SHEEN and EMILIO ESTEVEZ (103 Across) are sons of actor Martin Sheen, who was born Ramon Estevez. Saturn's moon DIONE (18 Down), pronounced die-OWE-nec, was named after the mother of Aphrodite.



THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman
MIXED-UP CELEBRITIES: People who aren't quite themselves
by Randolph Ross

ACROSS

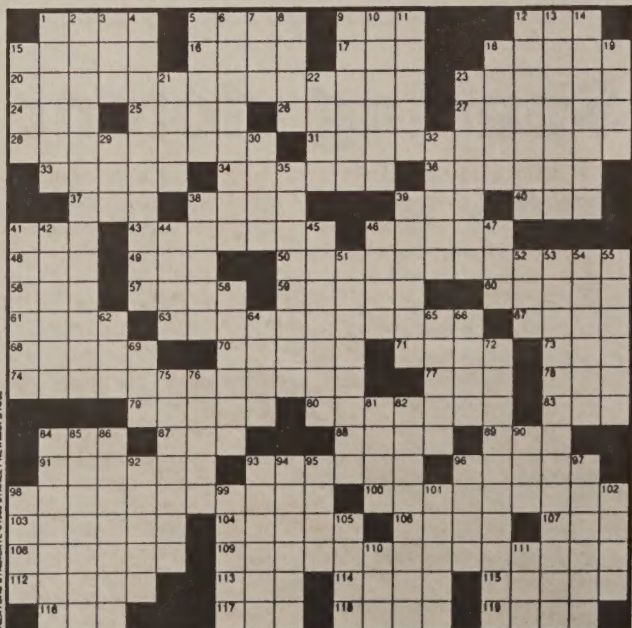
- 1 Stepless access
- 5 Cuban coin
- 9 20-vol. lexicon
- 12 Elevator compartment
- 15 Nurturing person
- 16 The King
- 17 Debate side
- 18 Immune to rainouts
- 20 Wandering actress?
- 23 Judean governor
- 24 Mao ___-tung
- 25 How much to take
- 26 Miss Bernhardt
- 27 Tootin' precursor
- 28 Point of view
- 31 Rational actor?
- 33 From then till now
- 34 Most urgent
- 36 Washington's Constitution
- 37 ABA member
- 38 Composer Bartok
- 39 A Chorus Line number
- 40 Start of MGM's motto
- 41 Endangered species' enemy
- 43 Ohio college
- 46 "Old MacDonald had ___"
- 48 S&L device
- 49 Squawler
- 50 Typical actor?
- 56 Pigeon peep
- 57 ___ glin fizz
- 59 Gruff sound
- 60 Cast aside
- 61 close to schedule
- 63 Silly sharpshooter?
- 67 Tributes in verse

DOWN

- 1 Brings up
- 2 Asian poet?
- 3 Blanc or Brooks
- 68 The Sound of Music heroine
- 70 Explorer Amundsen
- 71 ___ Can (Davis book)
- 73 A mean Amlin
- 74 Depressing director?
- 77 Author Delighton
- 78 DI's rank
- 79 Miner's land
- 80 Elm trees, e.g.
- 83 Place-kicker's prop
- 84 Tokyo's former name
- 87 Bit of energy
- 88 Amores poet
- 89 Exclamation of joy
- 91 Map out
- 93 "___ saying..."
- 96 Drive crazy
- 98 Ethical actress?
- 100 Hung around to see
- 103 Charlie Sheen's brother
- 104 Economic prefix
- 106 Attorney Dershowitz
- 107 Drug-overseeing agcy.
- 108 Comparatively neat
- 109 Injured psychologist?
- 112 British carbines
- 113 Bambi character
- 114 Sundance's girlfriend
- 115 No longer fresh
- 116 Compass pt.
- 117 The Azores' loc.
- 118 Antelope playmates of song
- 119 Confession topics

ACROSS

- 4 Seers and swamis
- 5 Old hat
- 6 Give rise to
- 7 DOD high-tech program
- 8 Rembrandt medium
- 9 Wagner works
- 10 Roving adventurously
- 11 ___ Right Thing
- 12 Hope's mustachioed colleague
- 13 Major Bowes contestant
- 14 Calls it a day
- 15 Lloyd Webber musical
- 18 Moon of Saturn
- 19 Say no to
- 21 A little bit
- 22 Headquarters
- 23 Wise saying
- 29 Explosive initials
- 30 Cash register
- 32 Venetian artery
- 35 Slickers, for instance
- 38 Choose at the track
- 39 "The very buzzing..." Rousseau
- 41 Illinois city
- 42 Lacking a key
- 44 Island east of Java
- 45 ___ barred
- 46 Out of control
- 47 ___ Miniver
- 51 Touring troupe
- 52 GI address
- 53 Unclothed actor?
- 54 Dig (up)
- 55 Kind of inspection
- 58 Nocturnal insect
- 62 Colorado creek



- 64 Linguist Chomsky
- 65 Caught congers
- 66 River to the North Sea
- 69 Pedigree org.
- 72 Bedlam
- 75 College official?
- 76 ___ Vader
- 81 Gardner et al.
- 82 Aversion
- 84 Descendant of Esau
- 85 Scoffs at
- 86 Milky, in a way
- 90 Additionally
- 92 Nastase's namesakes
- 93 Come (to)
- 94 Rite-related
- 95 "___ bigger than a breadbox?"
- 96 Nuree in India
- 97 Alpine calls
- 98 Baseballers since '62
- 99 Actor Milo
- 101 Eucharist table
- 102 Steak specification
- 105 Had blile
- 110 Martinique season
- 111 "Like ___ love III"

Time for new look

Pro hockey shoots for bigger market

By JAY MAGUIRE
Observer Staff Reporter

Professional hockey has gone through more changes through the years than Michael Jackson's face. From a modest six-team league, to an expanding 24-city colossus, the NHL is reaching out globally.

Canadians in 1967 made up 97 percent of the athletes in NHL play. Today, those numbers are down to 66 percent with Americans and Europeans comprising 17 percent each.

Tougher competition: Canadians are alarmed to see dwindling numbers of youths engaging in Canadian youth hockey programs. Fewer participants at the youth level directly relates to fewer bodies making the move to the professional level. The predominant reason for dwindling numbers of Canadians is directly related to the larger global talent pool now available.

"Players with talent will find a place in the pros," said Kevin Lyons, Boston Bruins public relations representative. "Players on the fringe may have a tough time making the jump to the pros with the rising competition coming from the United States and Europe."

The number of players coming from Europe has grown because of the fall of the Iron Curtain. No longer do Soviet players need to defect. Now Eastern Europeans are free to pursue the Western road to prosperity.

The way U.S. hockey was perceived soon changed following the crashing of two waves.

Greater interest: First in 1970, with the Boston Bruins Stanley Cup victory, boys in the New England area took to hockey in droves.

"In the Bobby Orr era, scouts predominantly checked out Canadian junior teams," Lyons said. "Today scouts check high schools, colleges as well as junior hockey."

The second wave crashed onto the United States West Coast. In 1980, the entire planet was focused on a group of American collegians. They laced on skates, took stick in hand, and proceeded to take on the world at the Lake Placid Winter Olympics.

With a gold medal victory against the Soviet Union, the United States had earned the respect of the hockey world. Three years later, Brian Lawton became the first American to be picked first in the NHL draft. Pat Lafontaine and Tom Barrasso, also Americans, were taken third and fifth respectively.

With lucrative contracts now available to young athletes, it's harder for colleges to hold on to their talent.

"Coach Cedarchuk is looking to recruit players with a commitment to stay at Boston College," said Mike Trianoar of B.C. sports information.

Money matters: Colleges are feeling the loss in all sports. Due to the big dollars being offered, athletes are pursuing the professional ranks rather than committing to colleges. The exception may be Canadian athletes.

"Canadians are now coming to the States to not only get exposure, but a college education as well," Lyons said.



In the face

BOSTON BRUIN Glen Featherstone takes a beating from Philadelphia Flyers Greg Hawgood. Penalizing brawlers more ranks high among the many changes the NHL is attempting to broaden hockey's appeal.

Photo courtesy of the Eagle Tribune

The largest impact on pro hockey in years may come at the hands of newly-appointed NHL commissioner Gary Bettman.

After 15 ineffective years under president John Ziegler, Bettman was hired to bring NHL hockey to the level the NBA has enjoyed for over a decade.

New image: Bettman, 40, former member of the NBA general council and creator of the salary cap, was instrumental in bringing professional basketball mass appeal.

"It's too early to tell, though Bettman was instrumental in helping bring the NBA over the hump," Lyons said. "The problem facing him will be dealing with key people with differing opinions concerning fighting and penalties."

Hockey purists believe they will lose a portion of their loyal audience if fighting is abolished. In time, this issue will be addressed. Bettman may be pro hockey's best chance to bring recognition to the league. He brings with him a number of marketing ideas which may alienate the long-time fan, though the changes may only increase the demand.

Some of Bettman's proposals include:

□ changing the game format from three 20-minute periods to two 30 minute halves;

□ changing the playoff structure from a redundant inter-

divisional format to a conference-wide structure;

□ changing divisional names to avoid confusion, for example, the Adams Division will be the Northeastern Division;

□ closing down the league for 16 days and staging a Team USA-Team Canada exhibition as the NHL All Star game before players depart for the Olympics.

Future plans: If a "Dream Team" is not feasible for 1994, Bettman promises representation in 1998.

Bettman will also address a new collective bargaining agreement, which he pushed for his first day in office by contacting Bob Goodenow, player representative.

The selection of a hockey adviser is expected at the conclusion of the season. Buffalo Sabres general manager Gerry Meehan is said to head the list of choices.

The determining factor as to whether pro hockey can leap into the 21st century will be a lucrative television contract. All major sports depend on TV revenue and exposure. With aggressive marketing and major network television exposure, hockey could find itself climbing out of the cellar and taking its place alongside the NBA as the next sport to explode into nationwide acceptance.

Shaking violent image may prove difficult

By MICHAEL FALARDEAU
Observer Staff Reporter

The NHL is trying to shake its "all violence, no hockey," image and is finally trying to get itself out from behind the shadows of the NBA, NFL and Major League Baseball.

Team owners have decided to take steps with new rules to curb fighting in the NHL. If a player instigates a fight, he is assessed an additional two minutes to the penalty and is given a game misconduct. This simple rule has brought fighting down almost 50 percent this season.

The leagues fears were with tougher fighting rules, sticking would become more rampant, but this hasn't been the case. Sticking infractions are down almost 40 percent from last season. New rules against fighting, however, won't erase an image built over a 76-year history.

New reign: League officials decided that after an ineffective 15-year presidency, John Zeigler should be replaced. His inability to promote the league effectively

was his downfall. With Zeigler gone, the league hired its first commissioner.

Gary Bettman, 40, who created the NBA's revolutionary salary cap, was given a five-year mandate as commissioner. Bettman is credited with saving the NBA from extinction and now must do the same for the NHL.

With Bettman in charge, changes will be made. The most visible might be a new logo. As early as next season, the league could discard its black-and-orange shield for a more dynamic look, perhaps one sporting a hockey player in action. The league has also touched on the NBA's successful Olympic "Dream Team" concept. The only thing holding them back is that the Olympics take place in February, and that would result in suspending league play for three weeks.

Glamorized scene: The Dream Team concept is one idea, but if the NHL wants to shake its all-violence image, it knows it must get away from highly publicized fights like the one between tough guys Bob Probert of the Detroit Red Wings and Tie Domi, then of the New York Rangers. A fight like that received so much publicity that all attempts the NHL

was making to clean up its act looked invalid.

Probert can play the game and regularly contributes to the Wings line-up. Domi is known more for his fisticuffs, but has been a positive influence on the Winnipeg Jets since his trade. Unfortunately for both the league and the players, both are viewed as goons.

With Wayne Gretzky being the most notable name in hockey, the NHL needs to find new superstars and use them the same way the NBA uses stars like Michael Jordan.

Downhill: Gretzky has missed most of the season with a back injury and is rebounding slowly. He is on the downside of a brilliant career and like other NHL superstars, he is aging quickly. Mark Messier, Ray Bourque, Patrick Roy and Steve Yzerman are all putting up decent numbers, but are reaching that dreadful mid-30s age when a hockey career begins to fade.

The biggest hope for a marketing name was resting on the shoulders of Mario Lemieux who was on a pace to break Gretzky's single season scoring record of 215 points; however, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, so the NHL must now look elsewhere.

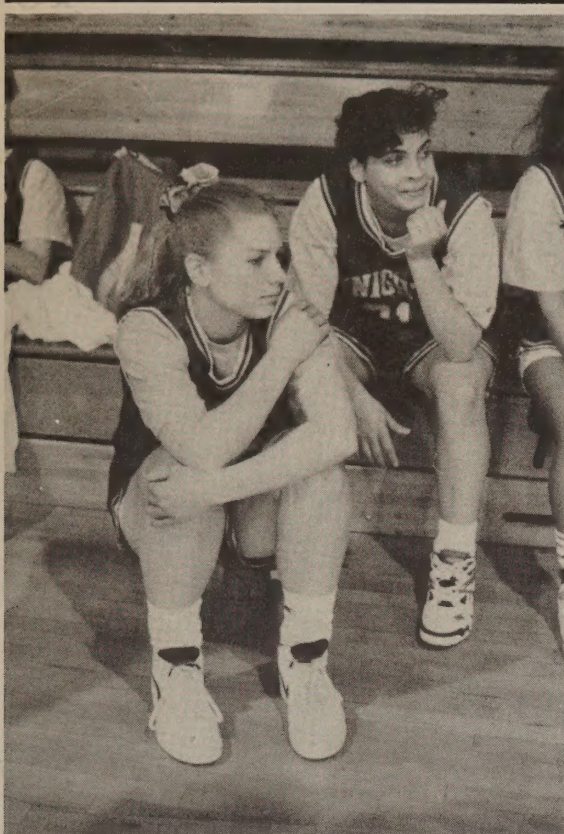
Rivalry: To bring the NHL into the spotlight, Bettman will use his current stars and the rookie talent that has blessed the NHL this season.

Pat Lafontaine of the Sabres and Adam Oates of the Bruins are now fighting for the scoring title with Lemieux down and out. Alexander Mogilny and Pavel Bure are one and two in goals, respectively. Bettman must use these players as well as rookies such as Eric Lindros to show what hockey is made of.

The influx of European and Russian players has helped the league's image. European players don't play a physical game. They pride themselves, the same way Russians do, on finesse and goal scoring ability.

Players like Vladimir Ruzicka have shown how good a player can be without having to fight to gain respect.

Going from a violent image to one of skill and determination won't be easy, but slowly the league will try to climb out of the shadows and prove itself in the commercial market.



Women's team closes in Tournament-bound Lady Knights expect playoff victory

By NEB STOJKOVIC
Observer Sports Editor

For the Lady Knights, who shined throughout the season and established a 20-5 record, the next challenge is the Regional Tournament. On March 7, the team will face Becker College, who defeated the Lady Knights twice this season.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we can beat Becker," Assistant Coach Donna Johnson said. "The last two times, the ball just didn't want to go in, but we are the better physically prepared team, and we hope to beat them."

Forward Joleen Morrison shares this opinion and thinks the game against Becker could depend on the luck of the ball. Guard Charline Blair also hopes to win and thinks it will be more of a mental thing.

Confidence: "We have nothing to lose," Blair said. "We are a better team and we could outrun them easily."

It was Becker who broke the Lady Knights' chain of victories in a recent home game.

Becker's guard Karen Bergstrom led the team with 28 points and her execution overpowered the Lady Knights' efforts.

The frustrated team fell behind from the beginning, which resulted in a 71-46 loss.

Jen Arnold, who fouled out, scored 15 points, Jeannie Ouellet had 10, and Shaye Fenton managed 8 points.

Short: This was not enough to match Becker, who was hot all night.

"It was probably our weakest game of the year," Johnson said. "There is not much to say, but the ball just wasn't falling."

The Lady Knights were back on the winning track again in

the game against Lasell College.

In a tiny gym without a 3-point line, the Lady Knights outran their rival, blowing them out 94-39.

The confident team executed better, but the small gym was to Lasell's advantage.

Disadvantaged?: "It was such a small gym," Blair said. "We were confused on such a small court, but we managed to shoot well and had good defense."

Arnold, who played outstanding defense, plugged 29 points, followed by Ouellet with 22, Blair, 18 and Fenton, 15.

The next game was against Newbury College, and the Lady Knights traveled to Boston.

Without players on the bench, the team won its 20th victory of the season.

Ouellet led the scoring with 31 points, Arnold had 26, Santiago, 18 and Blair, 14.

"We out-talented them and overran them," Johnson said. "Overall, we beat them."

Blowout: The Lady Knights' domination on the court reflected in the final score, 94-52.

An away game against Quinsigamond College was a slap in the face for the Lady Knights.

The top ranked team in the region, Quinsigamond, which has lost only one game all season, out-rebounded the Lady Knights.

A height advantage, and Quinsigamond center Pam Keen, with 22 points, held the Lady Knights down throughout the game.

The halftime score of 31-16, extended to a 76-53 loss.

Although the Lady Knights defense was well-organized, and the one-three-one zone was effective, the team's offense was cold.

On the ball

SHAYE FENTON and Jaharya Santiago watch their opponents warm-up before the Quinsigamond game.

J. Quinn photo

Knights' player sets NECC scoring record

By NEB STOJKOVIC
Observer Sports Editor

Some people say he does not even look athletic, but just watch him play. He has inside moves.

It's Eric Freund, the 6-foot-5-inch Knights forward. He is 23, and lives in Salem, N.H. This is his fourth semester at NECC as a liberal arts student, but for these last two years, Freund has accomplished a lot.

Averaging more than 22 points per game, Freund recently scored his 1,000th point, and became the top scorer at NECC. Ernesto Sang, who played in the 1988-90 seasons, held this record for the last three years.

Talent: "He is just a great low-post player," Coach Mike Rowinski said. "He is a bull-strong but finesse forward. Nothing can stop him."

Jack Hess, director of athletics, said Freund is a very talented player, but his free spirit is a different story.

As the youngest of five kids in the Freund family, where both parents work at a hospital, he liked sports. To him, it was not clear until the sixth grade that he has talent for basketball. At that time, he cared only for football.

"I always liked football more," Freund said. "It was by chance that my friend's parents asked me to try hoop."

Recruited: Very soon, Freund started playing for the St. Joseph Junior School, a private catholic school, although he never attended that school as a student.

All four years in high school, Freund played

both football and basketball. His high school friend and now teammate, Mike Stevens, remembers Freund having potential for playing, but also struggling with the high school coach.

"I just never liked my old coach," Freund said. "I guess he did not like me either, but we managed it somehow."

Freund does not think he was the best player in the high school. He said there were better players than him, because he did not try hard.

Bad timing: After coming to NECC, he definitely tried harder. He started in the 1990-91 season, but as soon as Rowinski noticed Freund as a good ballplayer, Freund was forced to leave.

Freund joined the Marine Corps Reserves. Operation Desert Storm needed him, and he left for Saudi Arabia. He remembers these days as fun but dangerous, but he said he wishes not to be in the Marines any more.

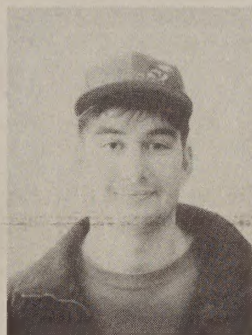
"It was worth to try," Freund said. "But I will try to get out of there. It is just too rough."

When Freund came back to NECC, nothing really changed about his playing ability.

What makes perfect?: "He just fit right in, even better than when he left," Rowinski said. "But no wonder, Freund never practices anyway."

This was the coach's only complaint. Rowinski said it is good to have him in the game, but better not to have him at the practices.

"He drives me crazy," Rowinski said. "He



J. Quinn photo
ERIC FREUND scores 1,000 points.

good shooter, Freund said, "It is probably natural ability. Sometimes I might be lucky, too."

Effectiveness: But his friends and fans also see something magic in Freund.

"I just do not know how he makes those shots under the basket," Stevens said. "Those lefty shots are unbelievable. He throws it and it goes in."

Freund's career high is 39 against Hesser College, last year, but he remembers a game against Springfield Tech as the hardest one.

Although sick and fed intravenously, Freund came on strong with 37 points, in a losing effort.

At the line: A big contribution to his points have been the freethrows. This season, Freund has over 145.

Freund also earned the title of All New

England Junior College Second Team All American.

He does not talk much about awards, but he wanted to emphasize that without the team he would not have achieved what he has.

"We are just a talented team," Freund said. "Nobody is selfish and I think, if I was not playing, somebody else on the team would become the all-time scorer. It is just great help that I have from the team."

Aspirations: Freund wishes to win the state tournament, or at least make it to the finals in the regional tournament.

Because this is his last semester, Freund would also like to be scouted at the tournament. After graduation, he also hopes to transfer to four-year college, although his major and school are still undecided.

Freund said basketball requires time and puts a lot of pressure on the person, and he wouldn't like to give up everything for hoop.

"I'm a laid-back person and do not want to take things too seriously," Freund said. "If it will take too much, I just won't take it. To me, it is important to be happy."

Cheers: And happy for Freund means going out and having a few drinks with his friends, and parties here and there.

In his spare time, he also likes to ski, enjoying the sport all over the country, from Colorado to New Hampshire. Cannon Mountain is his favorite.

"I like all sports, and it depends on the season," he said. "In the winter I'll ski, but in the summertime I like to play flag football, beach volleyball and softball."



J. Quinn photo
RANDY ROGERS goes for his trademark 3-point-shot.

Point guard Darren Stratton averages over 10 assists per game. He said the Knights have a good chance to win it all.

"We have a good offense, right now," Stratton said. "We play together more than

ever before."

Strength in size: Coach Mike Rowinski agrees the team has its strengths and weaknesses, and said it relies on the big players. He emphasizes better rebounding on both boards and tougher defense.

"Shawn Bassett has to play to his potential," Rowinski said. "Randy Rogers is tired. He has to adjust to the tough college schedule. I have a faith in Eric Freund, and we should be all set."

Because of the recent snow days, the men's basketball schedule was slightly changed.

The Knights traveled to Manchester Community College and recorded a victory.

Tough win: In the tough game, where the halftime score was tied at 33, Freund was the key. His free throws secured a 72-68, win.

"It was a big game for us," Rowinski said. "We worked hard and executed down the stretch, which resulted in the victory."

Freund was hot with 33 points, Rogers fired in 19, and Bassett had 14 points.

The next move was at home against Mass. Bay Community College. The Knights led in the first half by as many as 17.

The second half turned out even better, and the bench came on strong.

Key players: Rogers launched 29 points, Freund, who played only 10 minutes, achieved 12, and Stevens had 11.

"We beat the crap out of them," Freund said. "We are just a much better team."

Against Newbury in Boston, the Knights played on the small court, which caused a commotion on the floor.

"It was confusing for us," Stratton said. "They also played us tough, and we were delighted after the victory."

The final score was 68-56. Rogers scored 21 points, Adam Connery had his best game of the year with 16 points, including three 3-pointers, and Freund and Bassett hurled 13 points each.

Momentum: The exhausted Knights played their fourth game in four days, against Spring-

field Tech.

Without Rogers' effectiveness, they managed a 79-68 victory, but it was closer than the score shows.

"It was a tough win, but our big men played well," Rowinski said.

Tough finish: The Knights played their last game of the regular season away, against Quinsigamond Community College.

It was a 64-60 loss, where the team could not match its rival. Quinsigamond's size presented a major problem and their tall center, Louis Galando, put Bassett away.

"It was a sloppy game," Rowinski said. "Bassett didn't play well. We did not play well."

The game against Mass Bay Community College opened the state tournament.

It was an important game to win, and the team again out-scored its rival 78-60.

"We came to play and we needed it," Stratton said. "We played them recently and had the good balance that made us win."

Rollins' dark performance shines

Trek through anger, emotion shows different side of enigmatic figure

By BILL BURKE
Observer Managing Editor

Henry Rollins has some demons to exorcise. *Rollins, Talking From the Box*, is a 64-minute visual journey into the dark psyche of one of the most complicated, driven, passionate performers on the planet.

One-time member of the seminal punk outfit Black Flag, and currently leader of the Rollins Band, Rollins observes life and its ever-evolving idiosyncrasies with the eye of a poet.

Perhaps one of the most remarkable aspects of this videotape is the alternate view provided of the terminally scowling and angry singer.

As the tattooed street poet takes the stage, clad only in a black shirt, shorts and boots, a strange phenomenon occurs on Rollins face. He is smiling.

"This is the height of art," Rollins says as he mounts the stage, grinning from ear to ear.

Having fun: The man enjoys the performance, and clearly enjoys baring his soul to those in attendance. It is not a Donahue-style maudlin confession so many celebrities are taken to these days. It is, however, a brutally candid string of stories, anecdotes and poetry taken from the life of this irascible man.

Rollins, however, makes a point of distancing himself from the generally accepted stereotypical poet.

"The p-word is poetry, and I don't like to use that word," Rollins says. "I think poetry

is for poets; Cappuccino drinking, beret wearing, fake-ass moustache having, stripe shirt, Velvet Underground-adoring poets. Leaky, sniveling, moist, clammy-handed guys who can't get any."

Rationalizing: He begins by launching into a reconciliation of sorts, explaining his feelings on concerts and spoken word performances and their tendency to go on too long.

After this almost humble beginning, Rollins relates an experience he once had at a Ramones concert. From this point on, the viewer is trapped. His friendly manner, his expert delivery and his unyielding candor all support the intrinsic honesty of the stories he tells.

And Henry smiles.

The show continues through Rollins' youth, with his time spent in D.C., working in a pet store where the majority of the animals died, his awkward adolescence and his admittedly liberal upbringing.

Anarchy; ha, ha: He gives a decidedly humorous take on the L.A. riots, calling the unending television coverage, "The shit is on fire" channel. He says the only thing on TV for three days was — surprise — strip malls on fire. The feeling Rollins is having the time of his life is contagious.

He mixes his amusement of the riots with his undisguised hatred for certain musicians. He tells of two rent-a-cops guarding a Sam Goody record store, and his reluctance to help them protect: Sting. He all but spits the name out, leaving nothing to the imagination.

The tale of the ending of a relationship and

its resulting behavior is a raucous event in which he mocks his own often angst-ridden poetry.

"If you're like me, you go into your room, paint the walls black and write poetry on black paper with black ink," he says. "And everything you write is important and profound because you are the king or queen of pain."

Dramatic mood: The style with which Rollins' spoken-word performance is documented is spartan, but striking. The man cuts an imposing figure, framed only by the darkness. His only prop: a water bottle. Rollins possesses a charisma that carries the show off without a hint of pretense.

"I just go up and freely express myself," he says. "That's what we call a euphemism for talking shit. The minute you title yourself, you immediately lend yourself to all kinds of pretension, especially in the poetry business."

In the final segment of the video, Rollins begins to weave a story of two friends. It is obvious the performance has changed gears, and the show has been building up to this point. Before starting the tale, he takes a deep breath and only then begins to speak. His words are measured and carefully chosen.

One of the friends, he says, was born in D.C., and the other in California. This, of course, is a thinly veiled dramatized personae representing himself and a friend. Told in the third person, it starts out as a fairly innocuous narrative, continuing in the humorous and light-hearted mien he has conducted the first part of the performance.

The story continues, explaining how the two friends are closer than brothers. Rollins tells of the boys' time together, and establishes the closeness of the friendship. The friends become roommates, and spend day and night together, becoming closer as the years wear on.

Symbolism: Rollins aficionados will recognize the tale of the 1991 death of the singer's best friend, Joe Cole.

He continues the tale, weaving the viewer through the life of the two comrades. One night, however, while walking home, the two are accosted by gun-toting gang-bangers. Realizing the two have 45 to 50 seconds to live, Cole makes a desperate attempt at survival.

Rollins is no longer smiling.

His voice becomes urgent, and his pace is now electric. Rollins' eyes become dark and his mood somber. He says he heard a slight scuffle, and then — "Bang." He shouts this, punctuating the finality of the situation.

At this point, he slips from third person to first, telling his story with regret, pain and anger. He runs from the two men and calls 911. The police arrive and cuff the singer. He sits in the back of the car while the police leave him in the dark and make gay jokes toward him.

"Excuse me sir, my hands are turning blue and also can you please tell me what happened to my friend Joe Cole?" Rollins pleads. He is not acting. "And the cop turns around with studied nonchalance and he said, 'Oh, he's dead.' And went back to his clipboard and wrote like it was no big deal."

Taking chances: Rollins is no longer performing. The pain clearly evident, he goes on, explaining the often overlooked aftermath of a killing, and the psychological implications of losing one's best friend.

"We're getting ourselves psyched up to mop up so much blood," he says. "We get to the front porch, and there's a big puddle of blood, right on the dirt on the front porch, and there's flies eating it. And I look down and this puddle of blood is very big, and very deep, and very viscous, and there're a lot of flies eating my dead friend's blood. And that was Joe Cole, man."

The feeling of loss imparted by this seem-



ingly invincible man is profound.

"I had to go right into Joe Cole's room and get his phone book and call every single f—king number in that phone book from A to Z and tell them the most horrible news I can think of," he says. "Between phone calls, I would have to steady myself so I wouldn't start crying and convulsing."

The juxtaposition of the humor and the pain is an effective tool, and one Rollins wields with a surgeon's precision. He offers up his personal philosophy on life, adding to the foreboding sense of finality.

No future: "I don't believe in an afterlife," he says. "You step on a bug, it dies. I shoot you in the face and you die and you don't come back."

Ultimately, Rollins' spoken-word performance is a haunting achievement that both entertains and teaches, and his positive outlook ends up coming through in the end.

"There's no time for drinking this Jack Daniels' poison," he says. "There's no time for hanging yourself. There's no time for blowing your brains out. There's no time for heroin. As bad as life is — life is awesome. The alternative — going to a funeral and looking at a little plastic box that contains your friend — sucks."

Rollins takes a deep breath, and lets the story rest. An exorcism of sorts, he returns to his former attitude, a little wiser, a little less naive, but no less strong.

Rollins, Talking From the Box is a departure from the drivel often peddled by high-minded "artists." It is a tool that can enrich and entertain. It also establishes Rollins as a bit more than a bald, tattooed, screaming, mindless maniac. He is this, and more.

Don't look for Rollins at the next 30-something encounter group meeting. He's still a man to be reckoned with.

"I want you to live two ways," he says, ending the show. "Long, and strong."

Facing death

"We get to the front porch, and there's a big puddle of blood. And I look down and this puddle of blood is very big, and very deep, and very viscous, and there're a lot of flies eating my dead friend's blood. And that was Joe Cole, man."

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